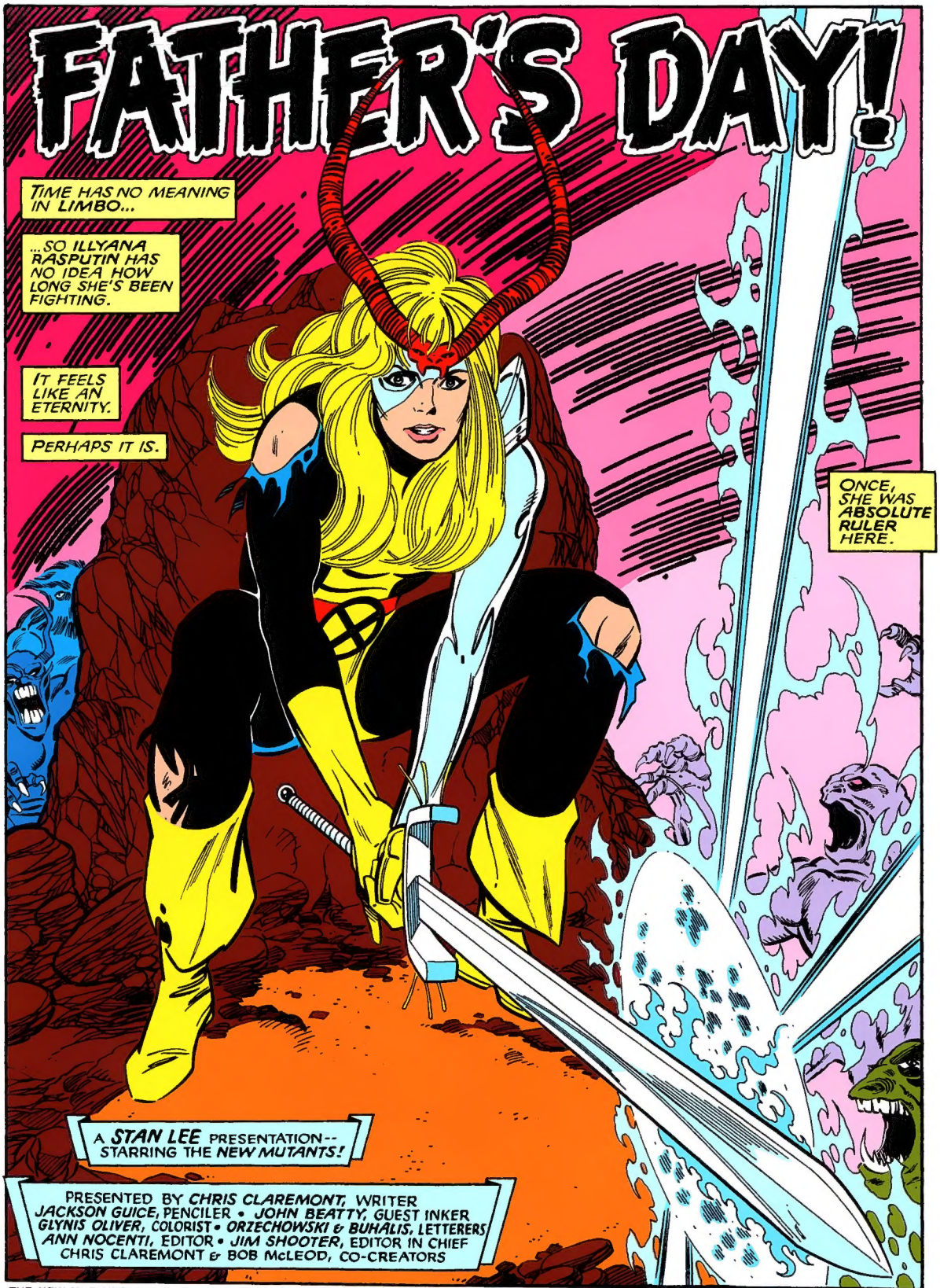
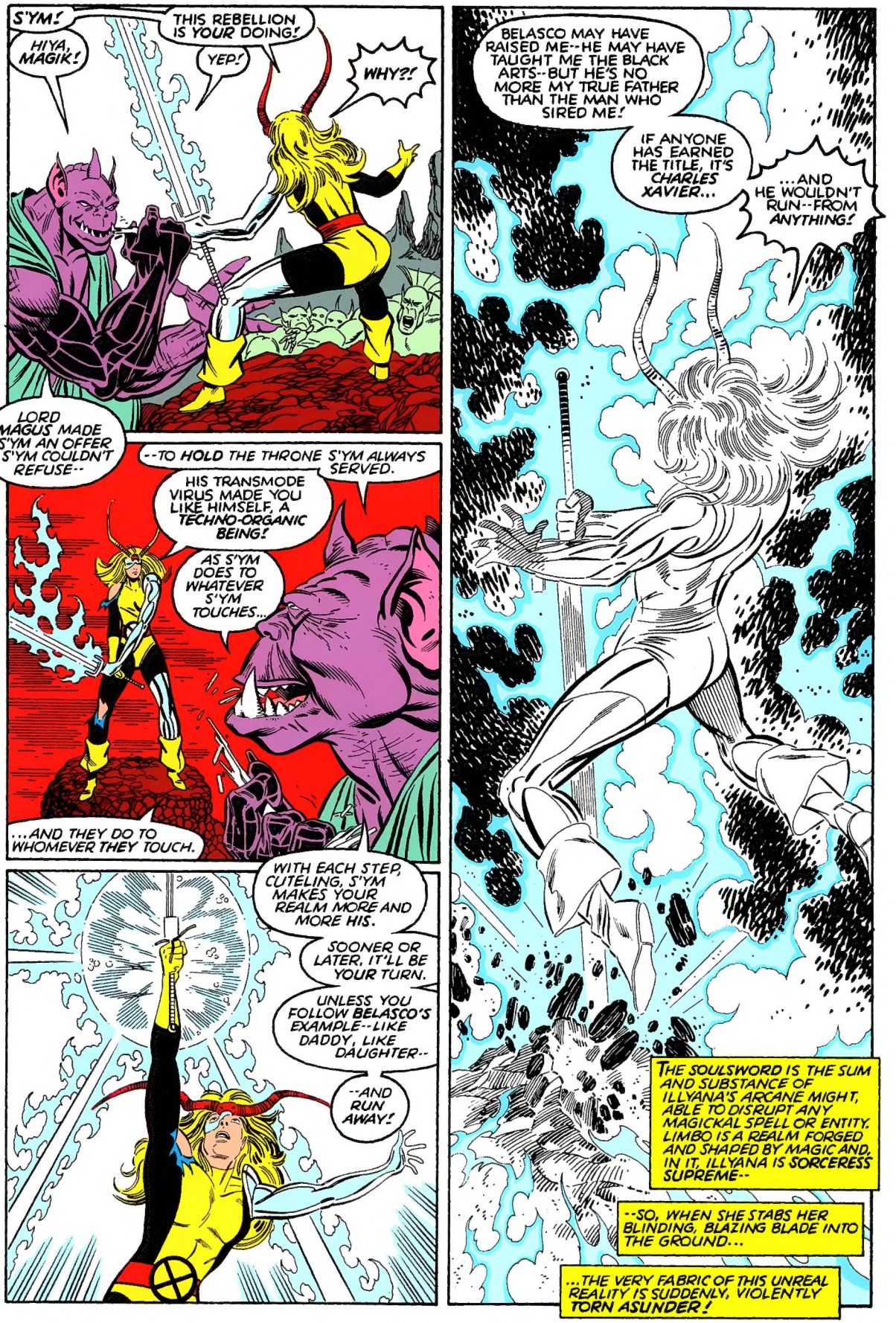
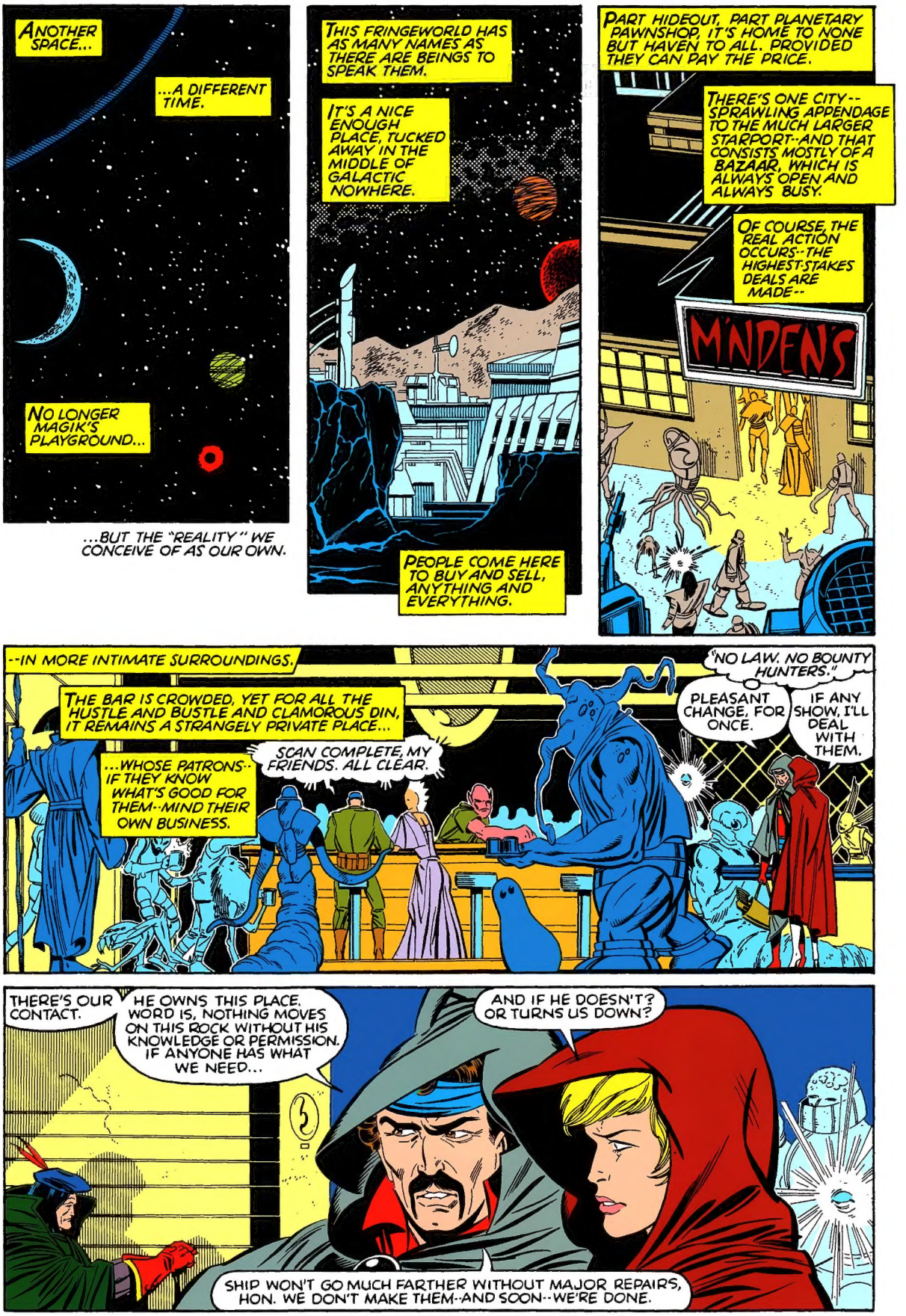
DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE!
MARVEL
© 1987 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE NEW MUTANTS
$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN
50
APR
UK 40p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MAGIK LOSES CONTROL OF LIMBO! THE MUTANTS LOST IN TIME! THE RETURN OF XAVIER! ALL THIS AND THE STARJAMMERS, TOO!
LEONARDI GREEN

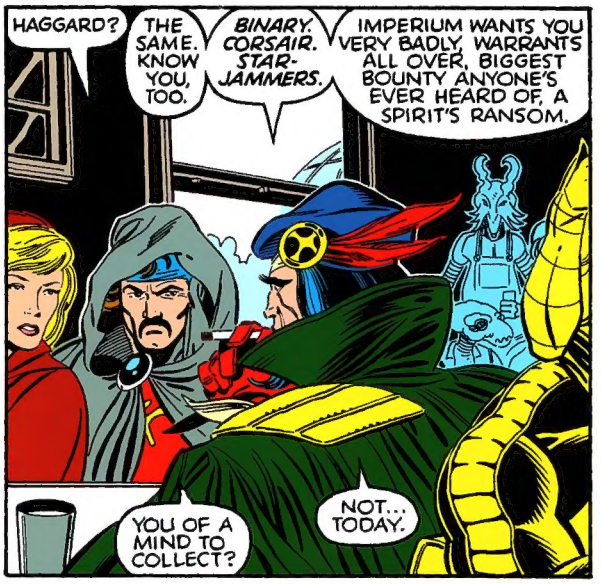

FATHER'S DAY!
TIME HAS NO MEANING IN LIMBO...
...SO ILLYANA RASPUTIN HAS NO IDEA HOW LONG SHE'S BEEN FIGHTING.
IT FEELS LIKE AN ETERNITY.
PERHAPS IT IS.
ONCE, SHE WAS ABSOLUTE RULER HERE.
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION-- STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS!
PRESENTED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
JACKSON GUICE, PENCILER • JOHN BEATTY, GUEST INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST • ORZECHOWSKI & BUHALIS, LETTERERS
ANN NOCENTI, EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR IN CHIEF
CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD, CO-CREATORS

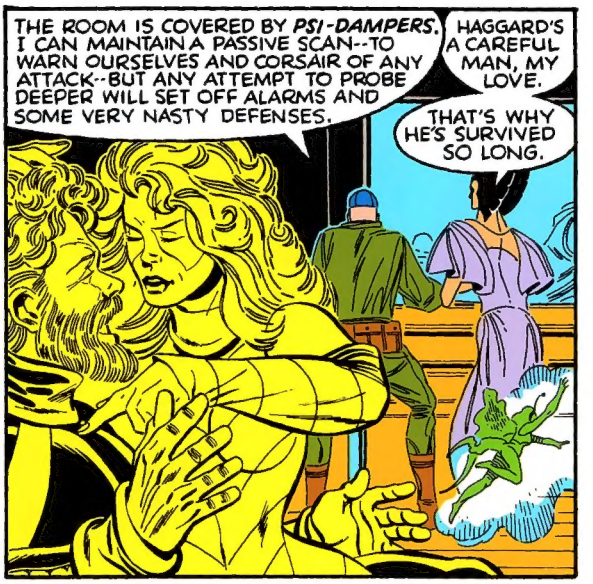
THE NEW MUTANTS' Vol. 1, No. 50, April, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.50 in Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE NEW MUTANTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NEW MUTANTS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.**

THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
A NEW ORDER HAS ARISEN IN LIMBO, DETERMINED TO CAST HER OUT--OR DESTROY HER.
SHE'S TAKEN A TERRIBLE TOLL, BUT FAST AS SHE STRIKES DOWN HER FOES, A SCORE RISES TO TAKE THEIR PLACE. THEY LOOK LIKE HER DEMONS--CREATURES OF LIVING FLESH AND BLOOD--
--BUT THEY'RE NOT.
ONE OF THEM TOUCHED ME!
I'VE BEEN INFECTED WITH THE TRANSMODE VIRUS!
REALIZATION AND REACTION ARE INSTANTANEOUS--AS SHE SLASHES HER STAR-BRIGHT BLADE THROUGH HER LEG.
THEY HAVE TO BE.
BLESSED SHADOW, MY SOULSWORD...
...PURGED THE CONTAGION FROM MY BODY. I'M STILL HUMAN.
BUT MY LEG--
--NOW IT'S COVERED BY ELDRITCH ARMOR, JUST LIKE MY LEFT ARM AND SHOULDER!
WISH I KNEW WHERE IT CAME FROM--AND WHAT THE HECK IT'LL MEAN WHEN MY WHOLE BODY'S COVERED? MAYBE THIS IS WHEN I FIND OUT--
--YOU!?!


S'YM!
HIYA, MAGIK!
THIS REBELLION IS YOUR DOING!
YEP!
WHY?!
LORD MAGUS MADE S'YM AN OFFER S'YM COULDN'T REFUSE--
--TO HOLD THE THRONE S'YM ALWAYS SERVED.
HIS TRANSMODE VIRUS MADE YOU LIKE HIMSELF, A TECHNO-ORGANIC BEING!
AS S'YM DOES TO WHATEVER S'YM TOUCHES...
...AND THEY DO TO WHOMEVER THEY TOUCH.
WITH EACH STEP, CUTELING, S'YM MAKES YOUR REALM MORE AND MORE HIS.
SOONER OR LATER, IT'LL BE YOUR TURN.
UNLESS YOU FOLLOW BELASCO'S EXAMPLE--LIKE DADDY, LIKE DAUGHTER--
--AND RUN AWAY!
BELASCO MAY HAVE RAISED ME--HE MAY HAVE TAUGHT ME THE BLACK ARTS--BUT HE'S NO MORE MY TRUE FATHER THAN THE MAN WHO SIRED ME!
IF ANYONE HAS EARNED THE TITLE, IT'S CHARLES XAVIER...
...AND HE WOULDN'T RUN--FROM ANYTHING!
THE SOULSWORD IS THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF ILLYANA'S ARCANE MIGHT, ABLE TO DISRUPT ANY MAGICKAL SPELL OR ENTITY. LIMBO IS A REALM FORGED AND SHAPED BY MAGIC AND, IN IT, ILLYANA IS SORCERESS SUPREME--
--SO, WHEN SHE STABS HER BLINDING, BLAZING BLADE INTO THE GROUND...
...THE VERY FABRIC OF THIS UNREAL REALITY IS SUDDENLY, VIOLENTLY TORN ASUNDER!


ANOTHER SPACE...
...A DIFFERENT TIME.
NO LONGER MAGIK'S PLAYGROUND...
...BUT THE "REALITY" WE CONCEIVE OF AS OUR OWN.
THIS FRINGEWORLD HAS AS MANY NAMES AS THERE ARE BEINGS TO SPEAK THEM.
IT'S A NICE ENOUGH PLACE, TUCKED AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF GALACTIC NOWHERE.
PEOPLE COME HERE TO BUY AND SELL, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.
PART HIDEOUT, PART PLANETARY PAWNSHOP, IT'S HOME TO NONE BUT HAVEN TO ALL. PROVIDED THEY CAN PAY THE PRICE.
THERE'S ONE CITY--SPRAWLING APPENDAGE TO THE MUCH LARGER STARPORT--AND THAT CONSISTS MOSTLY OF A BAZAAR, WHICH IS ALWAYS OPEN AND ALWAYS BUSY.
OF COURSE, THE REAL ACTION OCCURS--THE HIGHEST-STAKES DEALS ARE MADE--
M'NDEN'S
--IN MORE INTIMATE SURROUNDINGS.
THE BAR IS CROWDED, YET FOR ALL THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE AND CLAMOROUS DIN, IT REMAINS A STRANGELY PRIVATE PLACE...
...WHOSE PATRONS--IF THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR THEM--MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS.
SCAN COMPLETE, MY FRIENDS. ALL CLEAR.
"NO LAW. NO BOUNTY HUNTERS."
PLEASANT CHANGE, FOR ONCE.
IF ANY SHOW, I'LL DEAL WITH THEM.
THERE'S OUR CONTACT.
HE OWNS THIS PLACE. WORD IS, NOTHING MOVES ON THIS ROCK WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION. IF ANYONE HAS WHAT WE NEED...
AND IF HE DOESN'T? OR TURNS US DOWN?
SHIP WON'T GO MUCH FARTHER WITHOUT MAJOR REPAIRS, HON. WE DON'T MAKE THEM--AND SOON--WE'RE DONE.


HAGGARD?
THE SAME. KNOW YOU, TOO.
BINARY. CORSAIR. STAR-JAMMERS.
IMPERIUM WANTS YOU VERY BADLY, WARRANTS ALL OVER, BIGGEST BOUNTY ANYONE'S EVER HEARD OF, A SPIRIT'S RANSOM.
YOU OF A MIND TO COLLECT?
NOT... TODAY.


THE ROOM IS COVERED BY PSI-DAMPERS. I CAN MAINTAIN A PASSIVE SCAN--TO WARN OURSELVES AND CORSAIR OF ANY ATTACK--BUT ANY ATTEMPT TO PROBE DEEPER WILL SET OFF ALARMS AND SOME VERY NASTY DEFENSES.
HAGGARD'S A CAREFUL MAN, MY LOVE.
THAT'S WHY HE'S SURVIVED SO LONG.

WE STAR-JAMMERS SHOULD PROFIT FROM HIS EXAMPLE.
"WE STARJAM-MERS"--AMUSING, IS IT NOT, HOW EASILY THE EX-PATRIATE EMPRESS ASSUMES THE ROLE OF PIRATE AND REBEL? I'M ALMOST TEMPTED TO LET MY SISTER...
...KEEP THE THRONE SHE STOLE FROM ME.

CHARLES--WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SO WITHDRAWN, IS THERE DANGER?!
I WAS THINKING OF THE NEW MUTANTS. I KNOW I LEFT THEM IN GOOD HANDS, LILANDRA, BUT IN A VERY REAL SENSE, THEY ARE MY CHILDREN. I CAN'T HELP WORRYING.
I PLEDGED MY WORD, CHARLES--SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY, WE SHALL RETURN YOU TO EARTH.

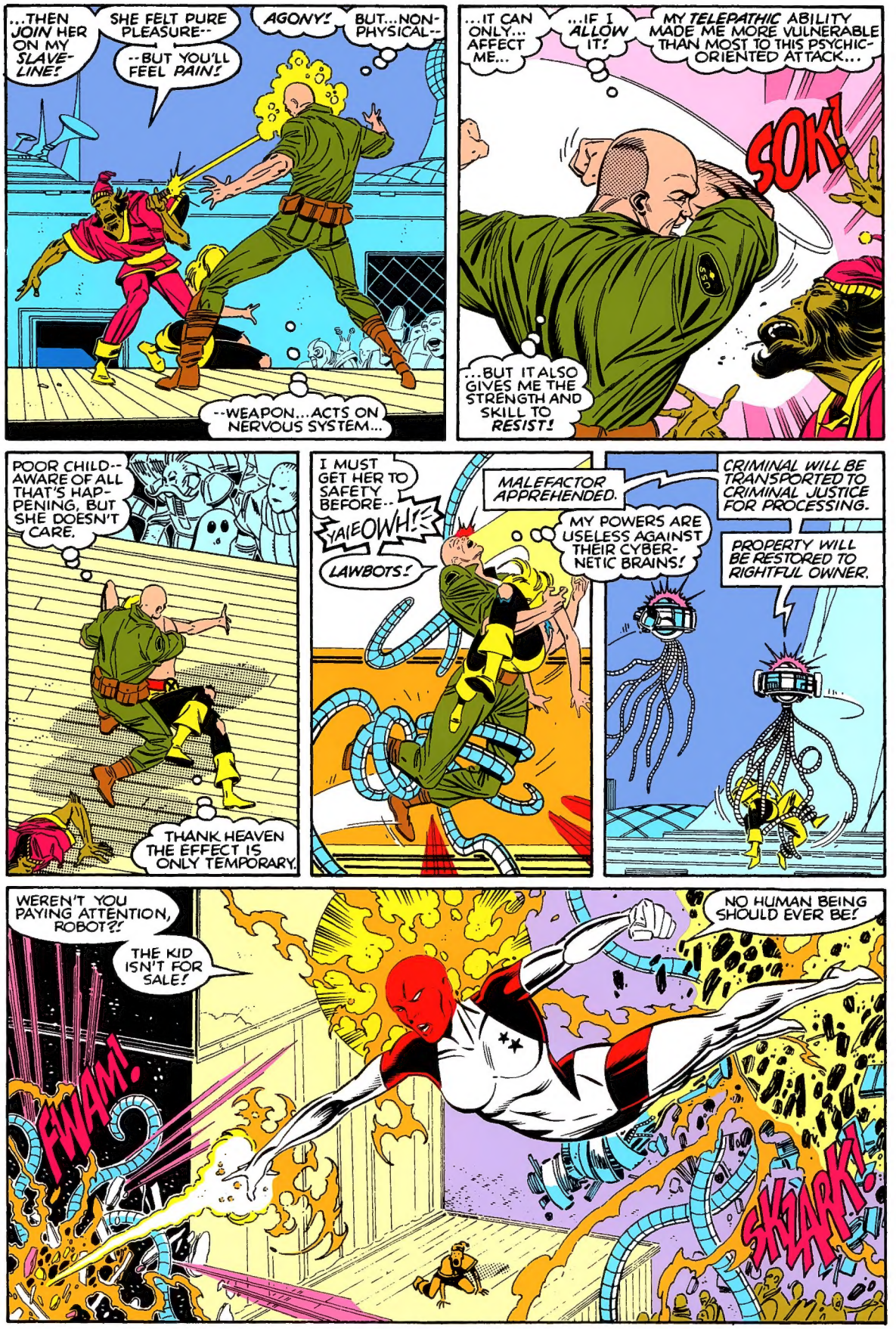
THAT SEEMS MORE AND MORE LIKE A DREAM--A HOLY GRAIL I'VE LOST, LIKE LANCELOT DID, NEVER TO FIND AGAIN.
THERE ARE TIMES I FEEL I'D PAY ANY PRICE, MAKE ANY SACRIFICE, TO GO HOME--
XAVIER'S SCHOOL
--AND YET...

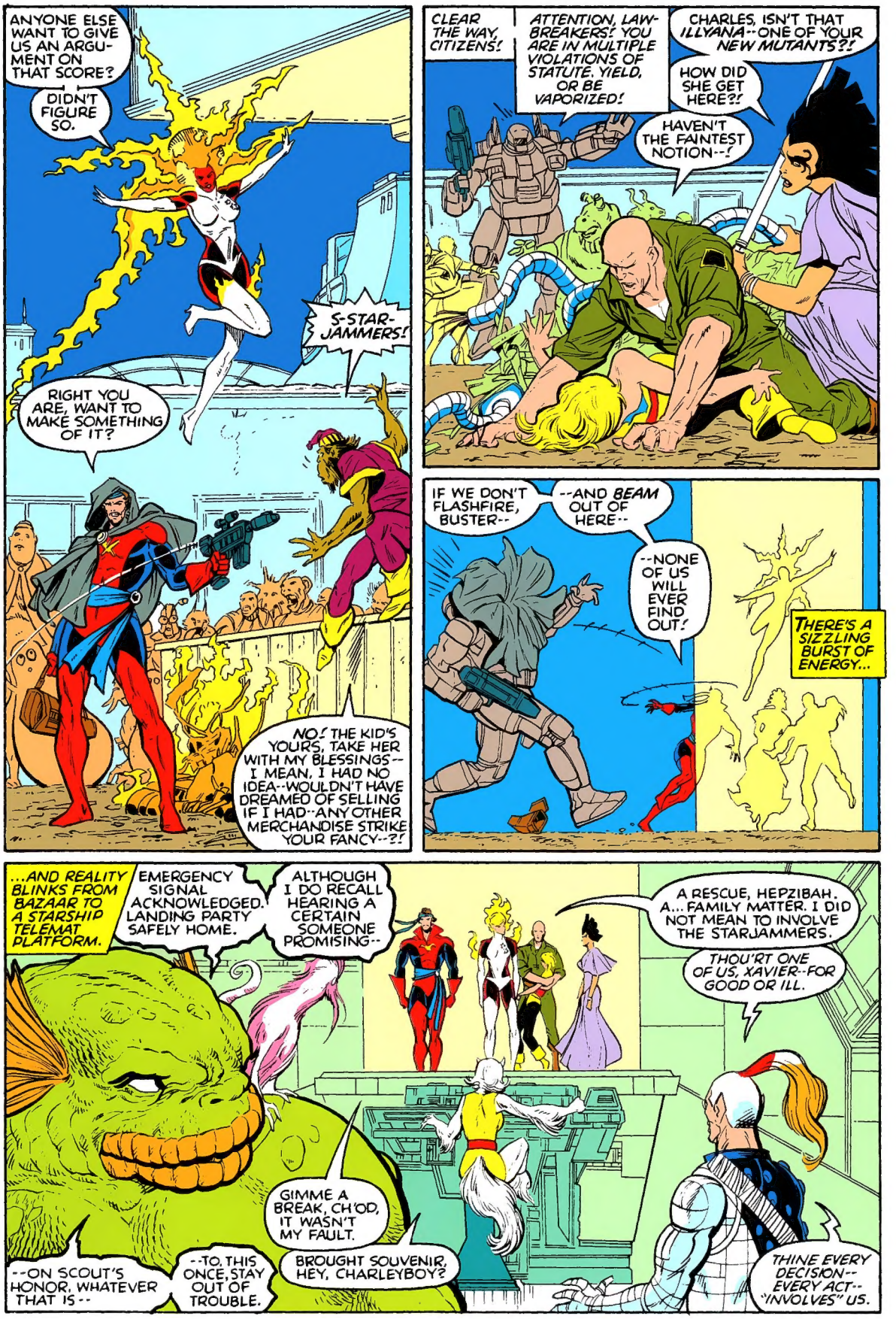
...THERE ARE FAR WORSE FATES THAN EXILE, WITH THE WOMAN I LOVE.
I SUPPOSE I CAN ONLY HOPE AND PRAY I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION--
--LEAVING MAGNETO AS THE HEADMASTER OF MY SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS--

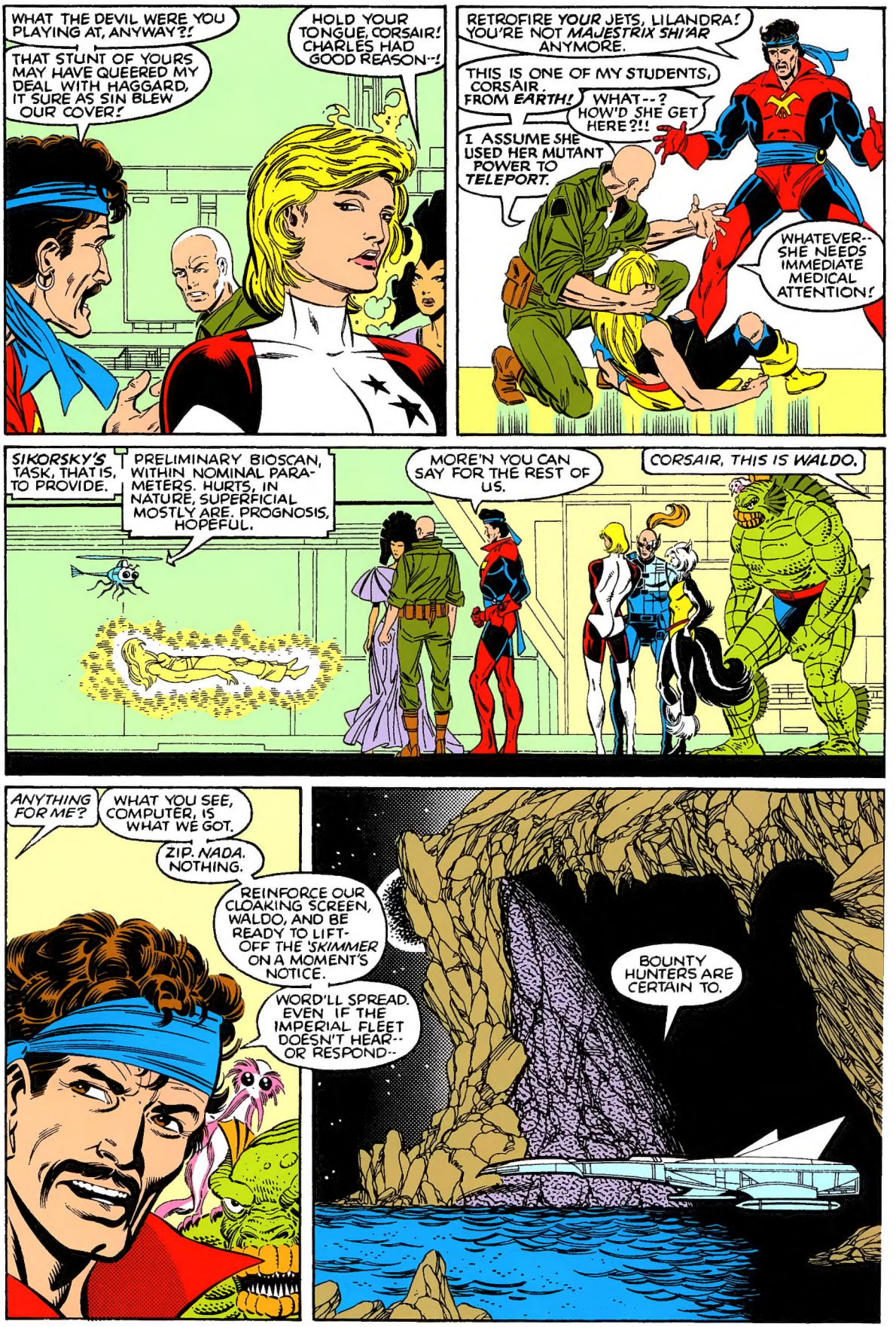
--AND ACCEPT THE HAPPINESS I HAVE...
...RATHER THAN CONSTANTLY YEARN FOR WHAT MIGHT NEVER--
eh?!

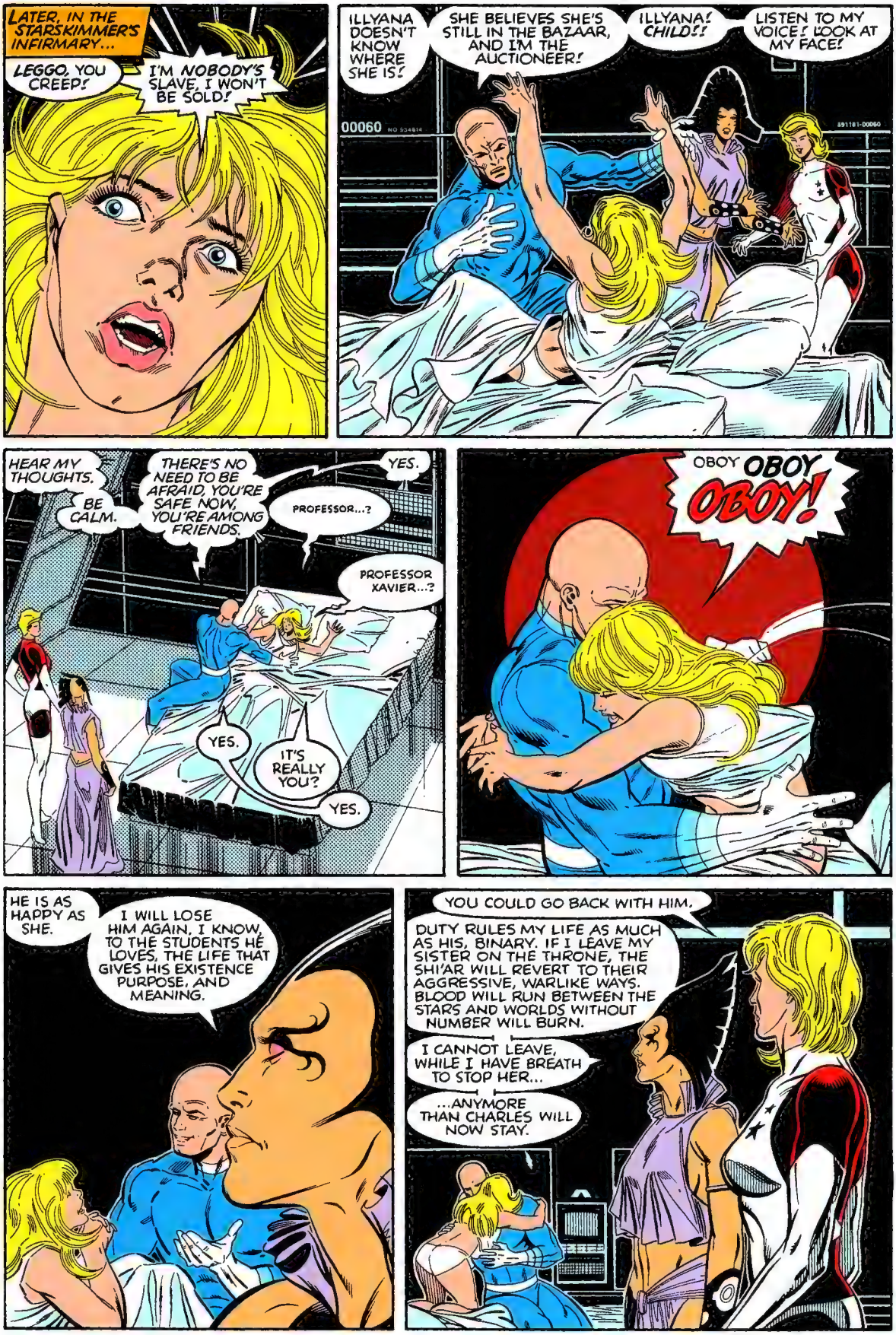
THAT THOUGHT-FLASH--HERE--
--IMPOSSIBLE!?!
CHARLES, WHAT--?!
STAY HERE, LILANDRA! I'LL BE BACK, QUICK AS I CAN!

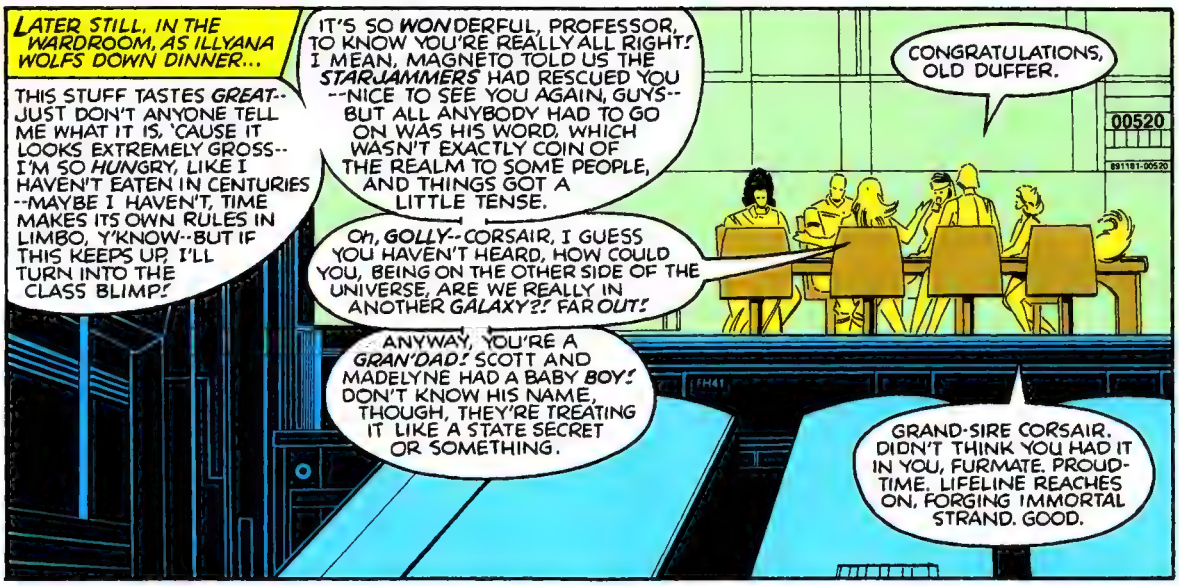
HER THOUGHTS--DISJOINTED--CONFUSED--THEY'RE LIKE A BEACON, LEADING ME TO HER--
CHARLES--!
SHE'S FAR MORE AFRAID THAN ANGRY. UNCHARACTERISTIC. I'D HAVE EXPECTED THE REVERSE.
SHE'S IN THE BAZAAR--
--ON THAT AUCTION BLOCK!
OUR LATEST OFFERING, GENTLE SENTIENTS!
NEO-SIMIAN HOMONID, MARGINALLY CIVILIZED--AND FULL OF SPIRIT!
USS NOSTROMO
WHO WOULDN'T LIKE TO TAME THIS WILDING, eh?!
BY GENDER, FEMALE--OMNIVOROUS AND ADOLESCENT--WHICH MEANS, FOR HER, THE BEST IS YET TO COME!
SHE POSSESSES FAIR NATIVE INTELLIGENCE, WITH AN EDUCATION TO MATCH, AND BY BASELINE STANDARDS ASSIGNED TO HER PHENOTYPE IS QUITE COMELY. SHE HAS NO PATRON, NO PAPERS...
LEMME GO!
YOU'RE NOT SELLING ME, YOU CREEP!
SWEETLING, I--AND YOUR NEW OWNER--WILL DO WITH YOU...
...WHATEVER WE PLEASE.
?!Oh!=
FZZPPT
A MOST TRACTABLE SOUL, NOBLE SENTIENTS, AS YOU CAN SEE. IT REQUIRED ONLY A MINIMAL SHOCKPULSE OF PLEASURE TO SUBDUE HER.
PROPER--AND PERMANENT--CONDITIONING SHOULD PROVE NO MORE DIFFICULT.
NOW, FOR THIS PRIME SPECIMEN...
...WHAT AM I BID?
SHE IS NOT FOR SALE.
YOUR ERROR, SENTIENT, BUT SHE IS.
I AM HER... PATRON. RELEASE HER.
NO ONE GIVES ME ORDERS ON MY OWN STAGE.
IF THIS BABE MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU...

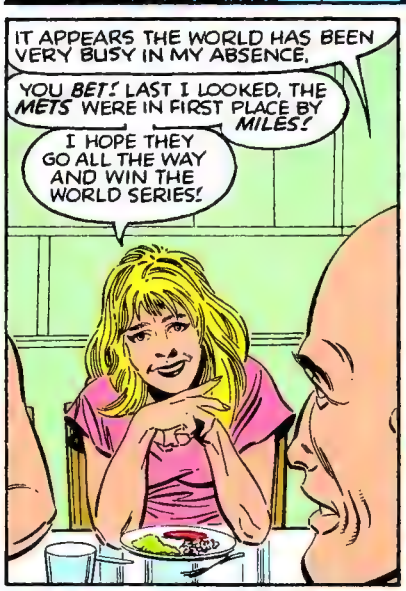

...THEN JOIN HER ON MY SLAVE-LINE!
SHE FELT PURE PLEASURE--
--BUT YOU'LL FEEL PAIN!
AGONY!
BUT...NON-PHYSICAL--
--WEAPON...ACTS ON NERVOUS SYSTEM...
...IT CAN ONLY... AFFECT ME...
...IF I ALLOW IT!
MY TELEPATHIC ABILITY MADE ME MORE VULNERABLE THAN MOST TO THIS PSYCHIC-ORIENTED ATTACK...
SOK!
...BUT IT ALSO GIVES ME THE STRENGTH AND SKILL TO RESIST!
POOR CHILD--AWARE OF ALL THAT'S HAP-PENING, BUT SHE DOESN'T CARE.
THANK HEAVEN THE EFFECT IS ONLY TEMPORARY.
I MUST GET HER TO SAFETY BEFORE--
YAIEOWH!
LAWBOTS!
MALEFACTOR APPREHENDED.
MY POWERS ARE USELESS AGAINST THEIR CYBER-NETIC BRAINS!
CRIMINAL WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE FOR PROCESSING.
PROPERTY WILL BE RESTORED TO RIGHTFUL OWNER.
WEREN'T YOU PAYING ATTENTION, ROBOT?!
THE KID ISN'T FOR SALE!
NO HUMAN BEING SHOULD EVER BE!
FWAM!
SKZARK!


ANYONE ELSE WANT TO GIVE US AN ARGUMENT ON THAT SCORE?
DIDN'T FIGURE SO.
S-STAR-JAMMERS!
RIGHT YOU ARE, WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?
NO! THE KID'S YOURS, TAKE HER WITH MY BLESSINGS--I MEAN, I HAD NO IDEA--WOULDN'T HAVE DREAMED OF SELLING IF I HAD--ANY OTHER MERCHANDISE STRIKE YOUR FANCY--?!
CLEAR THE WAY, CITIZENS!
ATTENTION, LAW-BREAKERS! YOU ARE IN MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS OF STATUTE. YIELD, OR BE VAPORIZED!
CHARLES, ISN'T THAT ILLYANA--ONE OF YOUR NEW MUTANTS?!
HOW DID SHE GET HERE?!
HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST NOTION--!
IF WE DON'T FLASHFIRE, BUSTER--
--AND BEAM OUT OF HERE--
--NONE OF US WILL EVER FIND OUT!
THERE'S A SIZZLING BURST OF ENERGY...
...AND REALITY BLINKS FROM BAZAAR TO A STARSHIP TELEMAT PLATFORM.
EMERGENCY SIGNAL ACKNOWLEDGED. LANDING PARTY SAFELY HOME.
ALTHOUGH I DO RECALL HEARING A CERTAIN SOMEONE PROMISING--
A RESCUE, HEPZIBAH. A... FAMILY MATTER. I DID NOT MEAN TO INVOLVE THE STARJAMMERS.
THOU'RT ONE OF US, XAVIER--FOR GOOD OR ILL.
GIMME A BREAK, CH'OD, IT WASN'T MY FAULT.
BROUGHT SOUVENIR, HEY, CHARLEYBOY?
--ON SCOUT'S HONOR, WHATEVER THAT IS--
--TO, THIS ONCE, STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.
THINE EVERY DECISION--EVERY ACT--"INVOLVES" US.


WHAT THE DEVIL WERE YOU PLAYING AT, ANYWAY?!
THAT STUNT OF YOURS MAY HAVE QUEERED MY DEAL WITH HAGGARD, IT SURE AS SIN BLEW OUR COVER!
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, CORSAIR! CHARLES HAD GOOD REASON--!
RETROFIRE YOUR JETS, LILANDRA! YOU'RE NOT MAJESTRIX SHI'AR ANYMORE.
THIS IS ONE OF MY STUDENTS, CORSAIR. FROM EARTH!
WHAT--? HOW'D SHE GET HERE?!!
I ASSUME SHE USED HER MUTANT POWER TO TELEPORT.
WHATEVER-- SHE NEEDS IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION!
SIKORSKY'S TASK, THAT IS, TO PROVIDE.
PRELIMINARY BIOSCAN, WITHIN NOMINAL PARAMETERS. HURTS, IN NATURE, SUPERFICIAL MOSTLY ARE. PROGNOSIS, HOPEFUL.
MORE'N YOU CAN SAY FOR THE REST OF US.
CORSAIR, THIS IS WALDO.
ANYTHING FOR ME?
WHAT YOU SEE, COMPUTER, IS WHAT WE GOT.
ZIP. NADA. NOTHING.
REINFORCE OUR CLOAKING SCREEN, WALDO, AND BE READY TO LIFT-OFF THE SKIMMER ON A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
WORD'LL SPREAD. EVEN IF THE IMPERIAL FLEET DOESN'T HEAR-- OR RESPOND--
BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE CERTAIN TO.

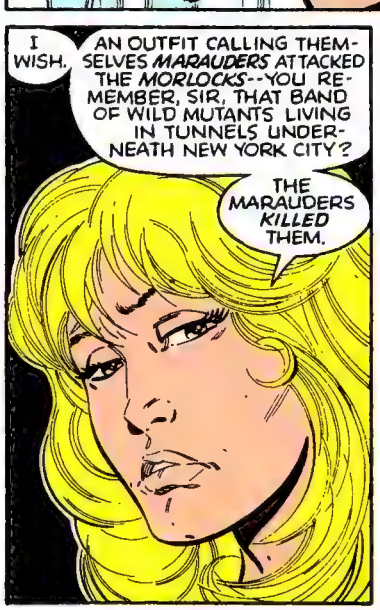

LATER, IN THE STARSKIMMER'S INFIRMARY...
LEGGO, YOU CREEP!
I'M NOBODY'S SLAVE, I WON'T BE SOLD!
ILLYANA DOESN'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS!
SHE BELIEVES SHE'S STILL IN THE BAZAAR, AND I'M THE AUCTIONEER!
ILLYANA! CHILD!!
LISTEN TO MY VOICE! LOOK AT MY FACE!
00060
HEAR MY THOUGHTS.
BE CALM.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID, YOU'RE SAFE NOW, YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS.
YES.
PROFESSOR...?
PROFESSOR XAVIER...?
YES.
IT'S REALLY YOU?
YES.
OBOY OBOY OBOY!
HE IS AS HAPPY AS SHE.
I WILL LOSE HIM AGAIN, I KNOW, TO THE STUDENTS HE LOVES, THE LIFE THAT GIVES HIS EXISTENCE PURPOSE, AND MEANING.
YOU COULD GO BACK WITH HIM.
DUTY RULES MY LIFE AS MUCH AS HIS, BINARY. IF I LEAVE MY SISTER ON THE THRONE, THE SHI'AR WILL REVERT TO THEIR AGGRESSIVE, WARLIKE WAYS. BLOOD WILL RUN BETWEEN THE STARS AND WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER WILL BURN.
I CANNOT LEAVE, WHILE I HAVE BREATH TO STOP HER...
...ANYMORE THAN CHARLES WILL NOW STAY.

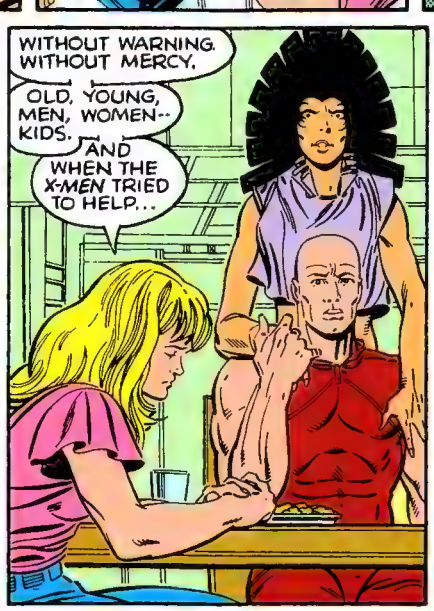

LATER STILL, IN THE WARDROOM, AS ILLYANA WOLFS DOWN DINNER...
THIS STUFF TASTES GREAT--JUST DON'T ANYONE TELL ME WHAT IT IS, 'CAUSE IT LOOKS EXTREMELY GROSS--I'M SO HUNGRY, LIKE I HAVEN'T EATEN IN CENTURIES--MAYBE I HAVEN'T, TIME MAKES ITS OWN RULES IN LIMBO, Y'KNOW--BUT IF THIS KEEPS UP, I'LL TURN INTO THE CLASS BLIMP!
IT'S SO WONDERFUL, PROFESSOR, TO KNOW YOU'RE REALLY ALL RIGHT! I MEAN, MAGNETO TOLD US THE STARJAMMERS HAD RESCUED YOU--NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, GUYS--BUT ALL ANYBODY HAD TO GO ON WAS HIS WORD, WHICH WASN'T EXACTLY COIN OF THE REALM TO SOME PEOPLE, AND THINGS GOT A LITTLE TENSE.
OH, GOLLY--CORSAIR, I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, HOW COULD YOU, BEING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE, ARE WE REALLY IN ANOTHER GALAXY?! FAR OUT!
ANYWAY, YOU'RE A GRAN'DAD! SCOTT AND MADELYNE HAD A BABY BOY! DON'T KNOW HIS NAME, THOUGH, THEY'RE TREATING IT LIKE A STATE SECRET OR SOMETHING.
CONGRATULATIONS, OLD DUFFER.
GRAND-SIRE CORSAIR. DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD IT IN YOU, FURMATE. PROUD-TIME. LIFELINE REACHES ON, FORGING IMMORTAL STRAND. GOOD.
00520
891181-00520

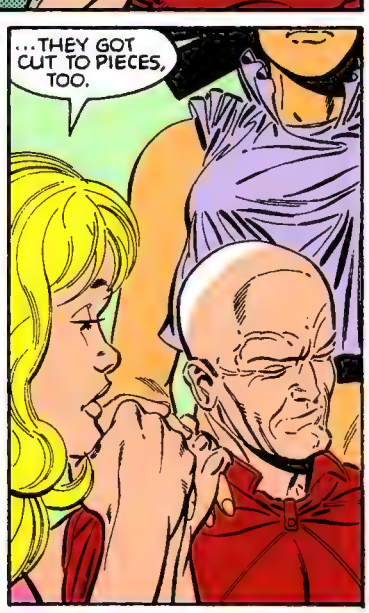

IT APPEARS THE WORLD HAS BEEN VERY BUSY IN MY ABSENCE.
YOU BET! LAST I LOOKED, THE METS WERE IN FIRST PLACE BY MILES!
I HOPE THEY GO ALL THE WAY AND WIN THE WORLD SERIES!

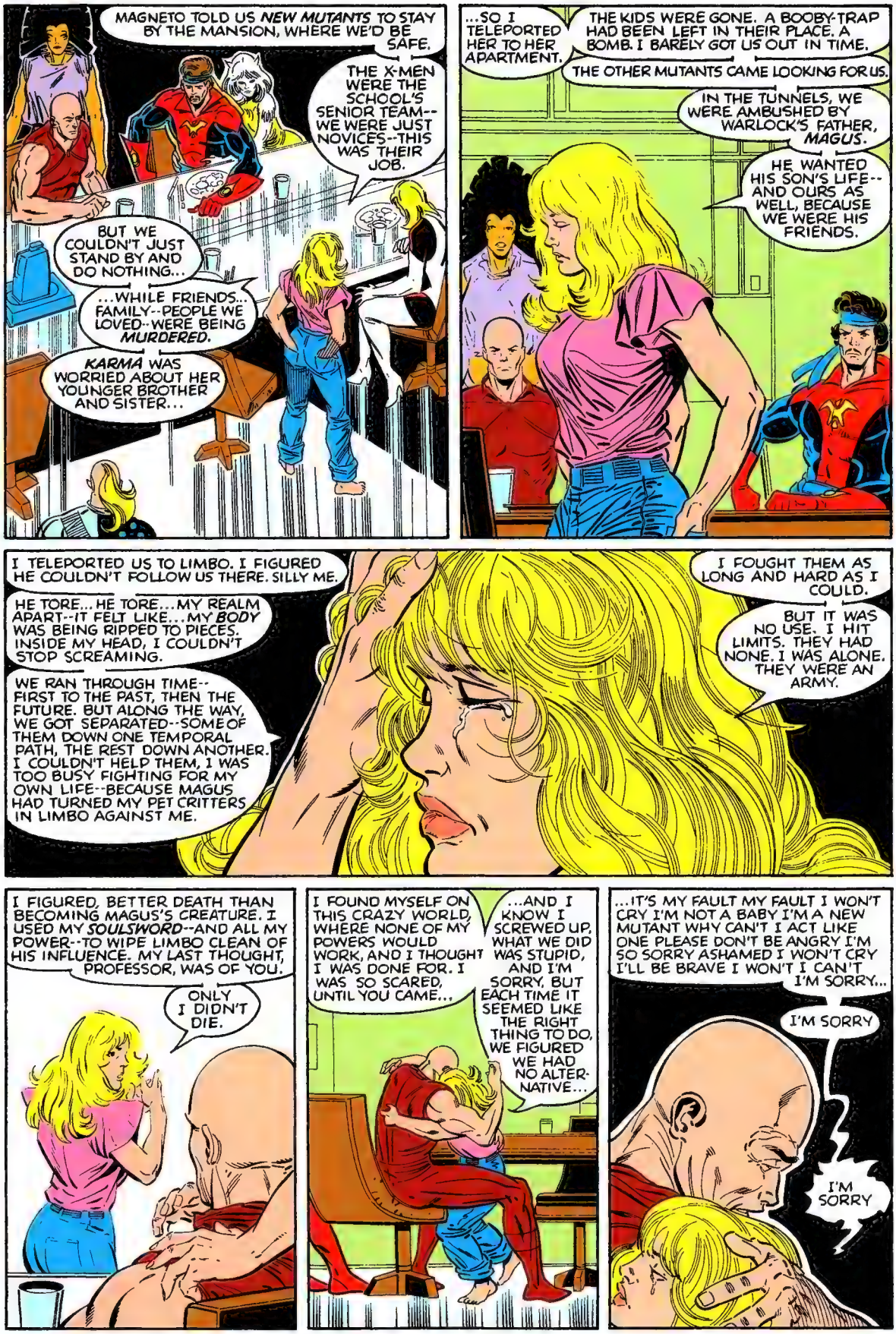
PARDON MY IGNORANCE...
...BUT I'VE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH A WHILE--
--WHO ARE THESE "METS?"

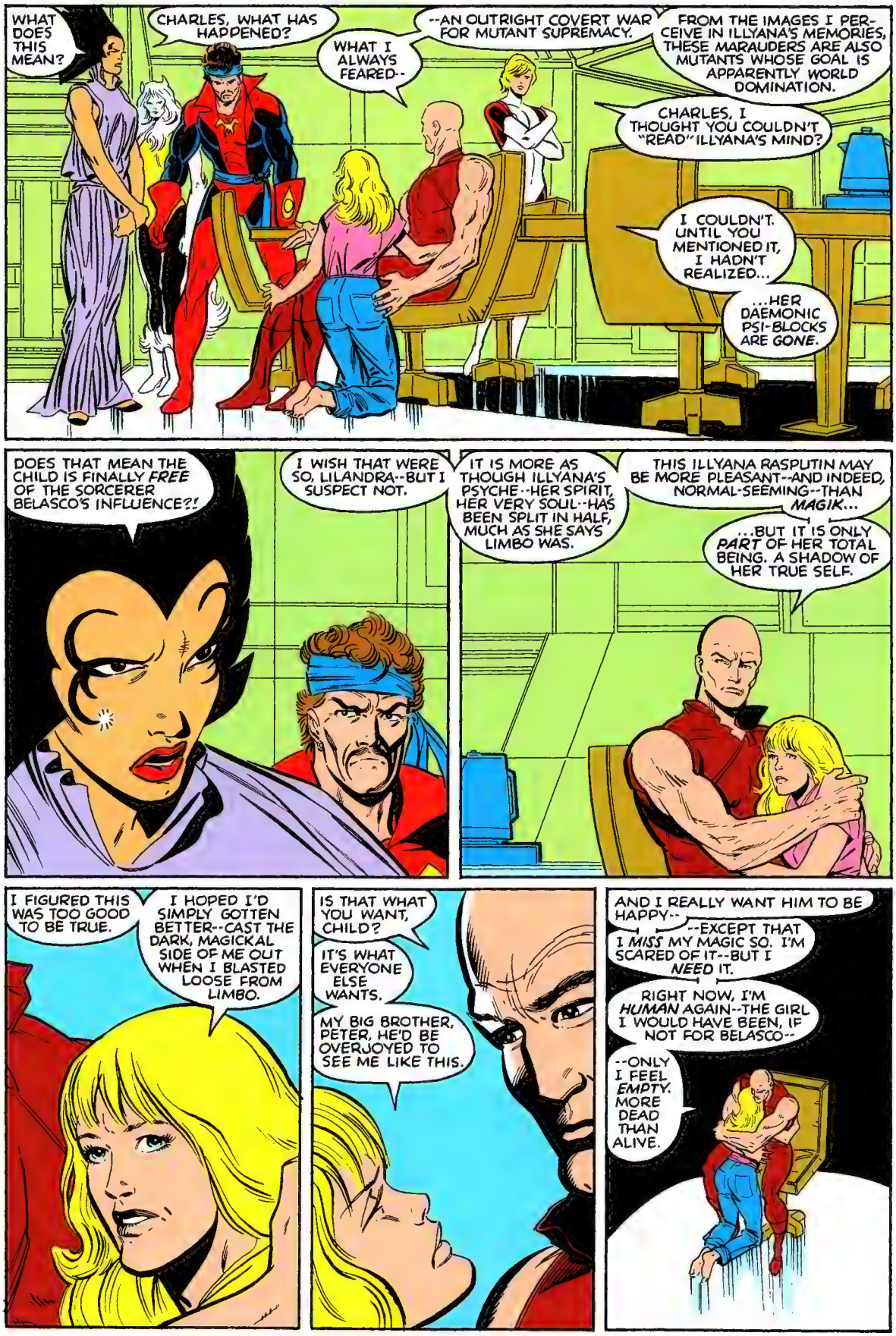
SO TELL ME, ILLYANA, HOW IS MAGNETO COPING WITH HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES?
IS ALL WELL AT HOME?


I WISH.
AN OUTFIT CALLING THEMSELVES MARAUDERS ATTACKED THE MORLOCKS--YOU REMEMBER, SIR, THAT BAND OF WILD MUTANTS LIVING IN TUNNELS UNDERNEATH NEW YORK CITY?
THE MARAUDERS KILLED THEM.

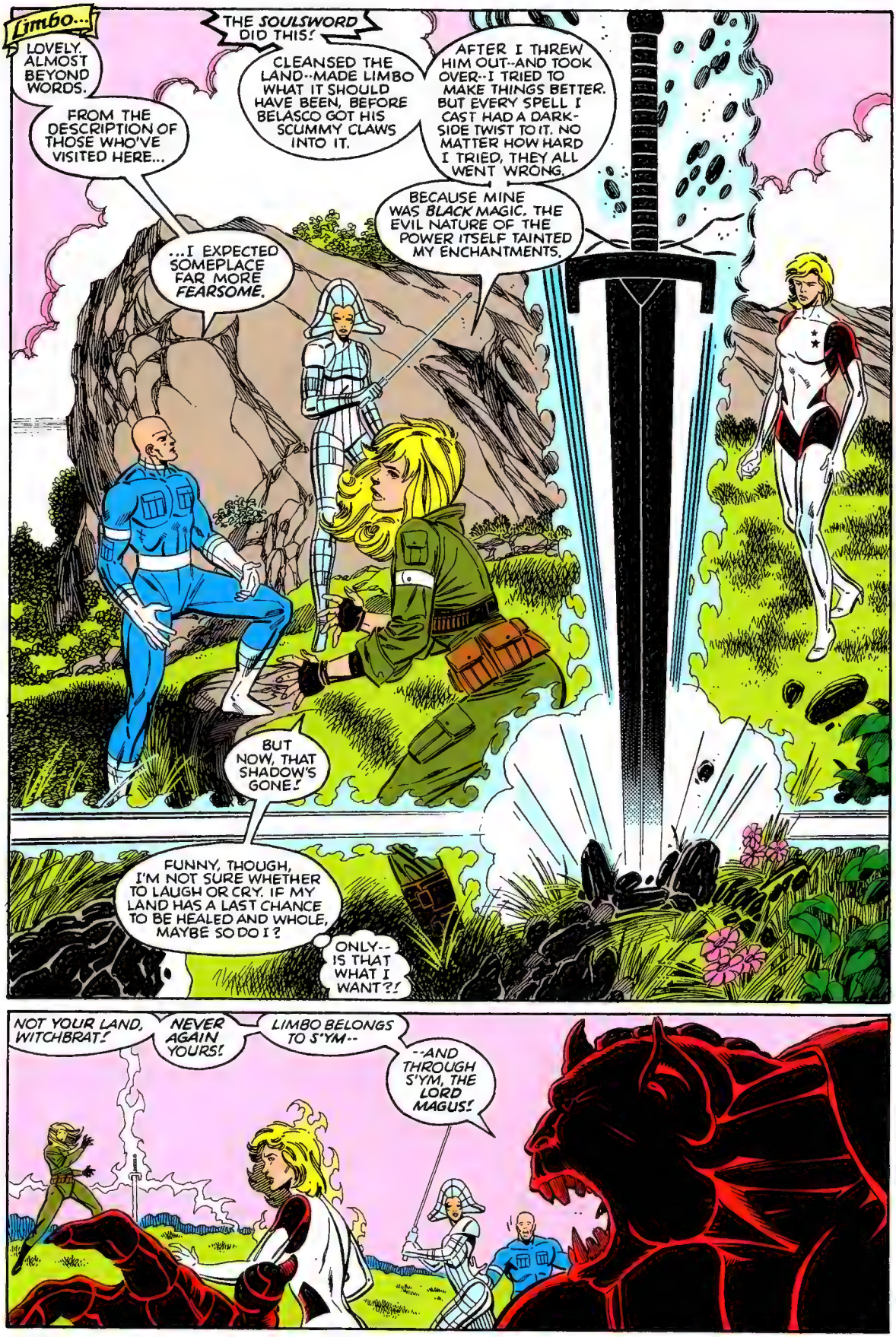

WITHOUT WARNING. WITHOUT MERCY.
OLD, YOUNG, MEN, WOMEN--KIDS.
AND WHEN THE X-MEN TRIED TO HELP...

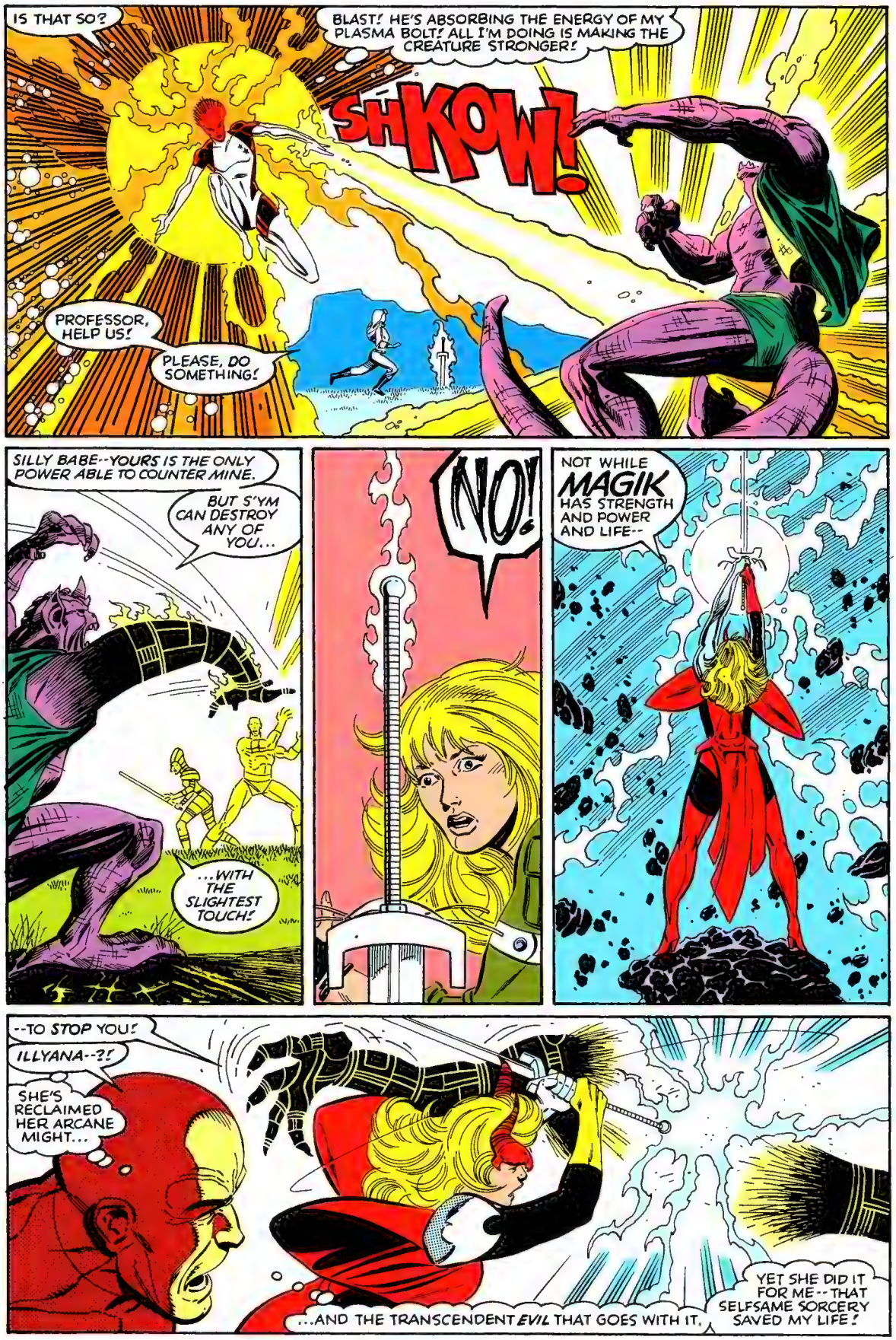

...THEY GOT CUT TO PIECES, TOO.

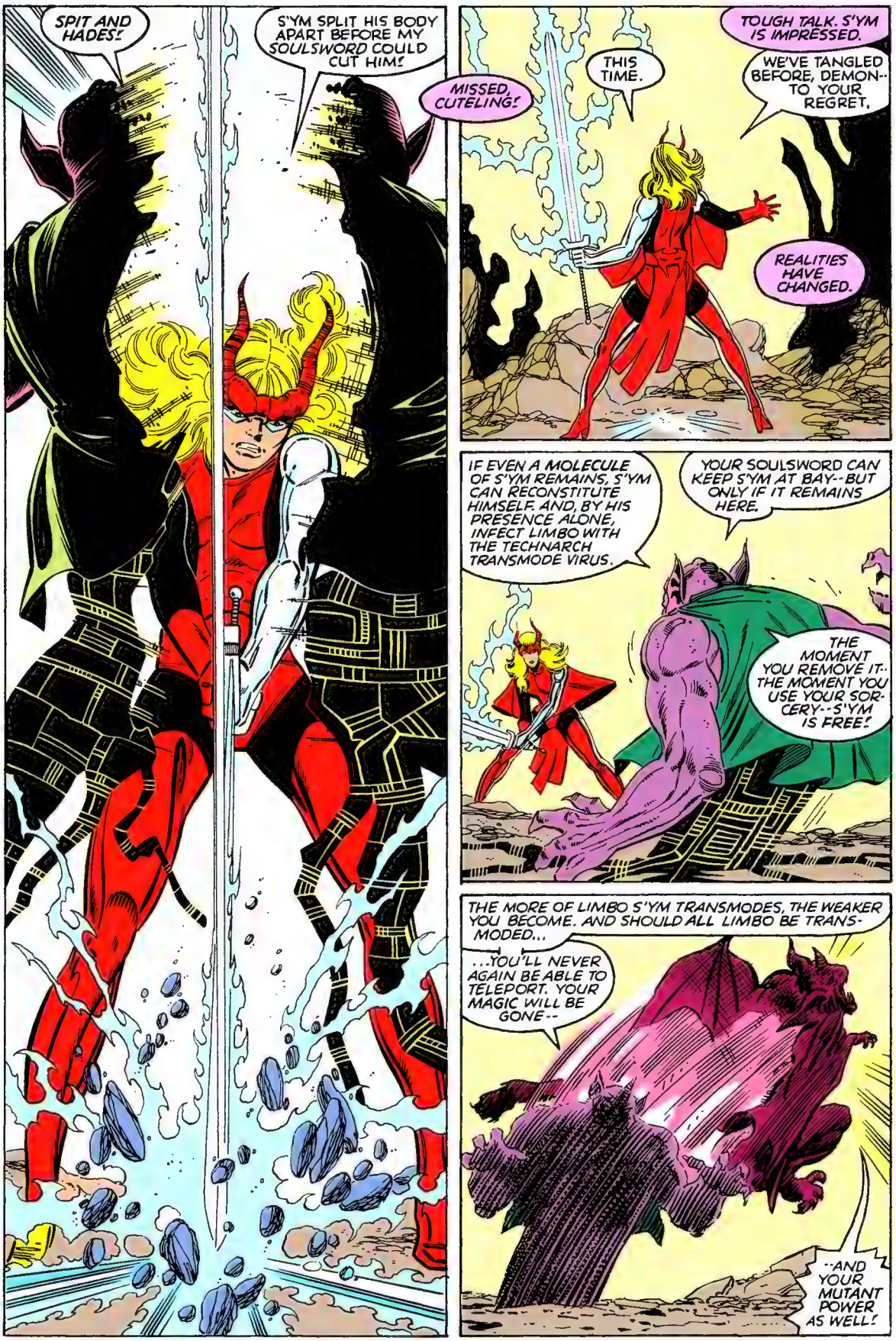

MAGNETO TOLD US NEW MUTANTS TO STAY BY THE MANSION, WHERE WE'D BE SAFE.
THE X-MEN WERE THE SCHOOL'S SENIOR TEAM--WE WERE JUST NOVICES--THIS WAS THEIR JOB.
BUT WE COULDN'T JUST STAND BY AND DO NOTHING...
...WHILE FRIENDS... FAMILY--PEOPLE WE LOVED--WERE BEING MURDERED.
KARMA WAS WORRIED ABOUT HER YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER...
...SO I TELEPORTED HER TO HER APARTMENT.
THE KIDS WERE GONE. A BOOBY-TRAP HAD BEEN LEFT IN THEIR PLACE. A BOMB. I BARELY GOT US OUT IN TIME.
THE OTHER MUTANTS CAME LOOKING FOR US.
IN THE TUNNELS, WE WERE AMBUSHED BY WARLOCK'S FATHER, MAGUS.
HE WANTED HIS SON'S LIFE--AND OURS AS WELL, BECAUSE WE WERE HIS FRIENDS.
I TELEPORTED US TO LIMBO. I FIGURED HE COULDN'T FOLLOW US THERE. SILLY ME.
HE TORE... HE TORE... MY REALM APART--IT FELT LIKE... MY BODY WAS BEING RIPPED TO PIECES. INSIDE MY HEAD, I COULDN'T STOP SCREAMING.
WE RAN THROUGH TIME--FIRST TO THE PAST, THEN THE FUTURE. BUT ALONG THE WAY, WE GOT SEPARATED--SOME OF THEM DOWN ONE TEMPORAL PATH, THE REST DOWN ANOTHER. I COULDN'T HELP THEM, I WAS TOO BUSY FIGHTING FOR MY OWN LIFE--BECAUSE MAGUS HAD TURNED MY PET CRITTERS IN LIMBO AGAINST ME.
I FOUGHT THEM AS LONG AND HARD AS I COULD.
BUT IT WAS NO USE. I HIT LIMITS. THEY HAD NONE. I WAS ALONE. THEY WERE AN ARMY.
I FIGURED, BETTER DEATH THAN BECOMING MAGUS'S CREATURE. I USED MY SOULSWORD--AND ALL MY POWER--TO WIPE LIMBO CLEAN OF HIS INFLUENCE. MY LAST THOUGHT, PROFESSOR, WAS OF YOU.
ONLY I DIDN'T DIE.
I FOUND MYSELF ON THIS CRAZY WORLD, WHERE NONE OF MY POWERS WOULD WORK, AND I THOUGHT I WAS DONE FOR. I WAS SO SCARED, UNTIL YOU CAME...
...AND I KNOW I SCREWED UP, WHAT WE DID WAS STUPID, AND I'M SORRY, BUT EACH TIME IT SEEMED LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO, WE FIGURED WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE...
...IT'S MY FAULT MY FAULT I WON'T CRY I'M NOT A BABY I'M A NEW MUTANT WHY CAN'T I ACT LIKE ONE PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY I'M SO SORRY ASHAMED I WON'T CRY I'LL BE BRAVE I WON'T I CAN'T I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY


WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
CHARLES, WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
WHAT I ALWAYS FEARED--
--AN OUTRIGHT COVERT WAR FOR MUTANT SUPREMACY.
FROM THE IMAGES I PERCEIVE IN ILLYANA'S MEMORIES, THESE MARAUDERS ARE ALSO MUTANTS WHOSE GOAL IS APPARENTLY WORLD DOMINATION.
CHARLES, I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T "READ" ILLYANA'S MIND?
I COULDN'T. UNTIL YOU MENTIONED IT, I HADN'T REALIZED...
...HER DAEMONIC PSI-BLOCKS ARE GONE.
DOES THAT MEAN THE CHILD IS FINALLY FREE OF THE SORCERER BELASCO'S INFLUENCE?!
I WISH THAT WERE SO, LILANDRA--BUT I SUSPECT NOT.
IT IS MORE AS THOUGH ILLYANA'S PSYCHE--HER SPIRIT, HER VERY SOUL--HAS BEEN SPLIT IN HALF, MUCH AS SHE SAYS LIMBO WAS.
THIS ILLYANA RASPUTIN MAY BE MORE PLEASANT--AND INDEED, NORMAL-SEEMING--THAN MAGIK...
...BUT IT IS ONLY PART OF HER TOTAL BEING. A SHADOW OF HER TRUE SELF.
I FIGURED THIS WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
I HOPED I'D SIMPLY GOTTEN BETTER--CAST THE DARK, MAGICKAL SIDE OF ME OUT WHEN I BLASTED LOOSE FROM LIMBO.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT, CHILD?
IT'S WHAT EVERYONE ELSE WANTS.
MY BIG BROTHER, PETER, HE'D BE OVERJOYED TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
AND I REALLY WANT HIM TO BE HAPPY--
--EXCEPT THAT I MISS MY MAGIC SO. I'M SCARED OF IT--BUT I NEED IT.
RIGHT NOW, I'M HUMAN AGAIN--THE GIRL I WOULD HAVE BEEN, IF NOT FOR BELASCO--
--ONLY I FEEL EMPTY. MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE.

AND, LATER STILL...
I HAVE TO MAKE THE ATTEMPT, CORSAIR.
VIA LIMBO, ILLYANA CAN TRAVEL TO ANY POINT IN TIME AND SPACE. HER OWN CONTROL IS WILDLY HAPHAZARD--BUT, NOW THAT I CAN ACCESS HER THOUGHTS, I BELIEVE I CAN DIRECT HER WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY.
SOMEWHERE, SOMEWHEN, OUT THERE ARE THE REST OF MY STUDENTS. IF THE MEREST CHANCE EXISTS TO SAVE THEM, I MUST TAKE IT.
YOU MAY NOT EVEN GET OUT THE GATE, YOU KNOW, PROF. IF THE GIRL'S PLOY WORKED--AND LIMBO WAS DESTROYED--SHE'S STUCK HERE.
ALTERNATIVELY, IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG ALONG THE WAY, LORD KNOWS WHERE YOU COULD END UP.
AND THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU JAUNT BACK.
WOULD YOU RATHER I ABANDON THOSE CHILDREN?
I'M SIMPLY LAYING OUT THE ODDS.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, CORSAIR. WITH THE PROF MONITORING AND GUIDING ME...
...I CAN BRING US BACK HERE IN A HEARTBEAT OR THREE.
BE SEEING YA!
YOU'RE TOO COCKY, KID--BEGGING FOR TROUBLE--
WHUAZ?
SOMETHING HIT THE HULL!
CORSAIR, WALDO HERE.
WE MAY HAVE A PROBLEM.
AS FAR AS MY SENSORS CAN DETERMINE, THIS PLANET IS BEING TORN APART!

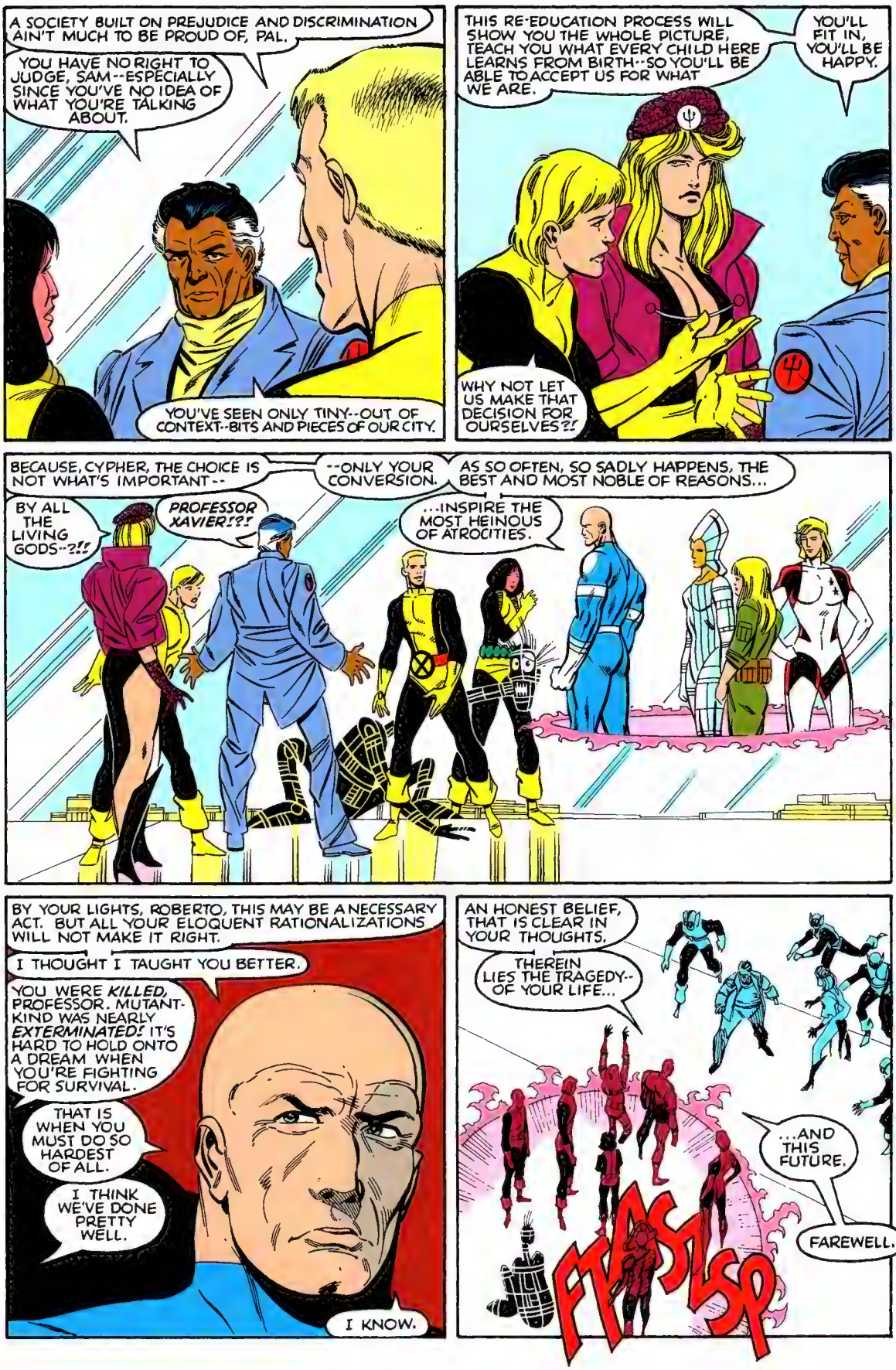

Limbo...
LOVELY. ALMOST BEYOND WORDS.
FROM THE DESCRIPTION OF THOSE WHO'VE VISITED HERE...
...I EXPECTED SOMEPLACE FAR MORE FEARSOME.
THE SOULSWORD DID THIS!
CLEANSED THE LAND--MADE LIMBO WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN, BEFORE BELASCO GOT HIS SCUMMY CLAWS INTO IT.
AFTER I THREW HIM OUT--AND TOOK OVER--I TRIED TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. BUT EVERY SPELL I CAST HAD A DARK-SIDE TWIST TO IT. NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED, THEY ALL WENT WRONG.
BECAUSE MINE WAS BLACK MAGIC. THE EVIL NATURE OF THE POWER ITSELF TAINTED MY ENCHANTMENTS.
BUT NOW, THAT SHADOW'S GONE!
FUNNY, THOUGH, I'M NOT SURE WHETHER TO LAUGH OR CRY. IF MY LAND HAS A LAST CHANCE TO BE HEALED AND WHOLE, MAYBE SO DO I?
ONLY--IS THAT WHAT I WANT?!
NOT YOUR LAND, WITCHBRAT!
NEVER AGAIN YOURS!
LIMBO BELONGS TO S'YM--
--AND THROUGH S'YM, THE LORD MAGUS!

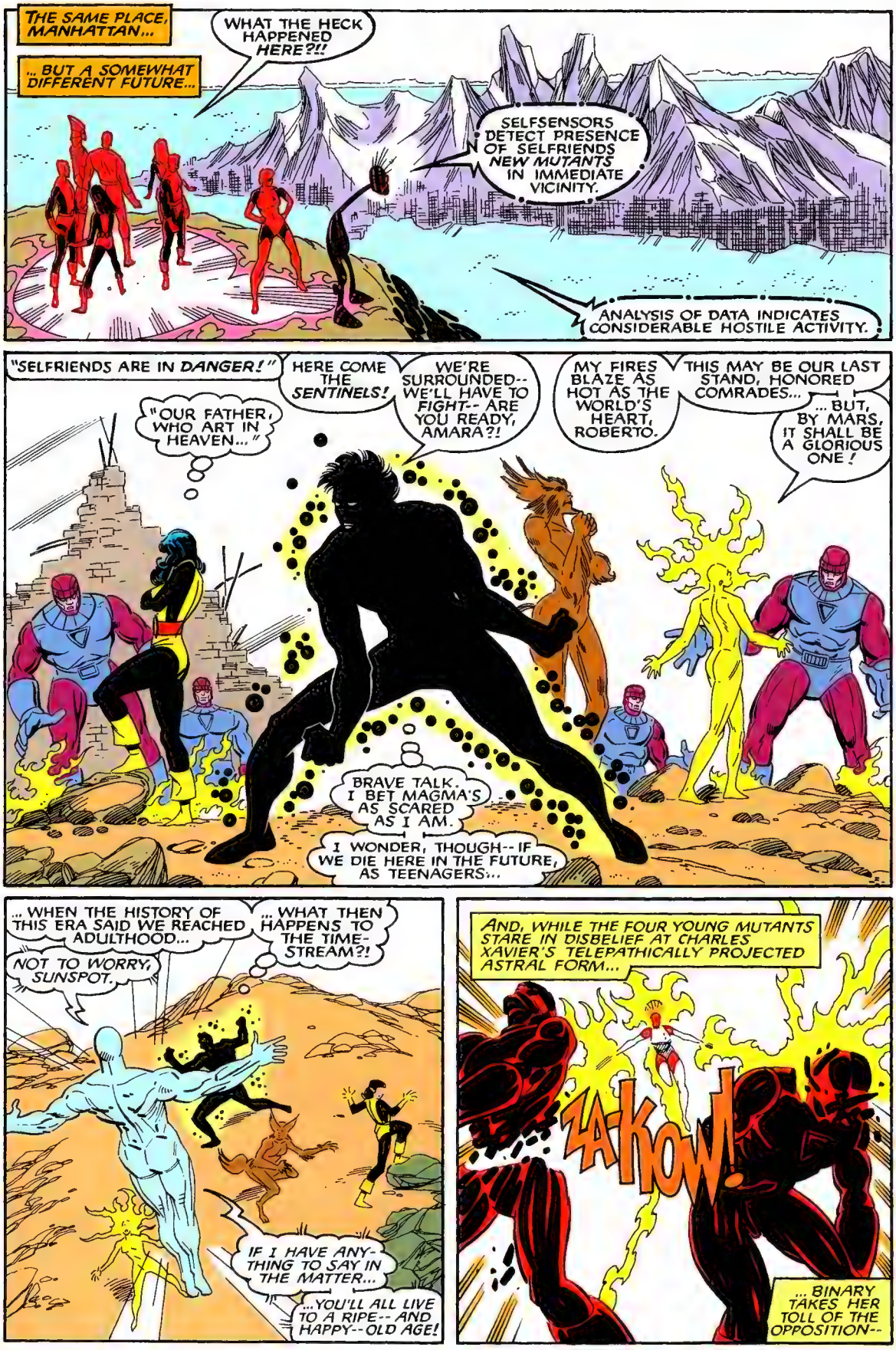

IS THAT SO?
BLAST! HE'S ABSORBING THE ENERGY OF MY PLASMA BOLT! ALL I'M DOING IS MAKING THE CREATURE STRONGER!
SHKOW!
PROFESSOR, HELP US!
PLEASE, DO SOMETHING!
SILLY BABE--YOURS IS THE ONLY POWER ABLE TO COUNTER MINE.
BUT S'YM CAN DESTROY ANY OF YOU...
...WITH THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH!
NO!
NOT WHILE MAGIK HAS STRENGTH AND POWER AND LIFE--
--TO STOP YOU!
ILLYANA--?!
SHE'S RECLAIMED HER ARCANE MIGHT...
...AND THE TRANSCENDENT EVIL THAT GOES WITH IT.
YET SHE DID IT FOR ME--THAT SELFSAME SORCERY SAVED MY LIFE!


SPIT AND HADES!
S'YM SPLIT HIS BODY APART BEFORE MY SOULSWORD COULD CUT HIM!
MISSED, CUTELING!
TOUGH TALK. S'YM IS IMPRESSED.
THIS TIME.
WE'VE TANGLED BEFORE, DEMON--TO YOUR REGRET.
REALITIES HAVE CHANGED.
IF EVEN A MOLECULE OF S'YM REMAINS, S'YM CAN RECONSTITUTE HIMSELF. AND, BY HIS PRESENCE ALONE, INFECT LIMBO WITH THE TECHNARCH TRANSMODE VIRUS.
YOUR SOULSWORD CAN KEEP S'YM AT BAY--BUT ONLY IF IT REMAINS HERE.
THE MOMENT YOU REMOVE IT--THE MOMENT YOU USE YOUR SORCERY--S'YM IS FREE!
THE MORE OF LIMBO S'YM TRANSMODES, THE WEAKER YOU BECOME. AND SHOULD ALL LIMBO BE TRANSMODED...
...YOU'LL NEVER AGAIN BE ABLE TO TELEPORT. YOUR MAGIC WILL BE GONE--
--AND YOUR MUTANT POWER AS WELL!

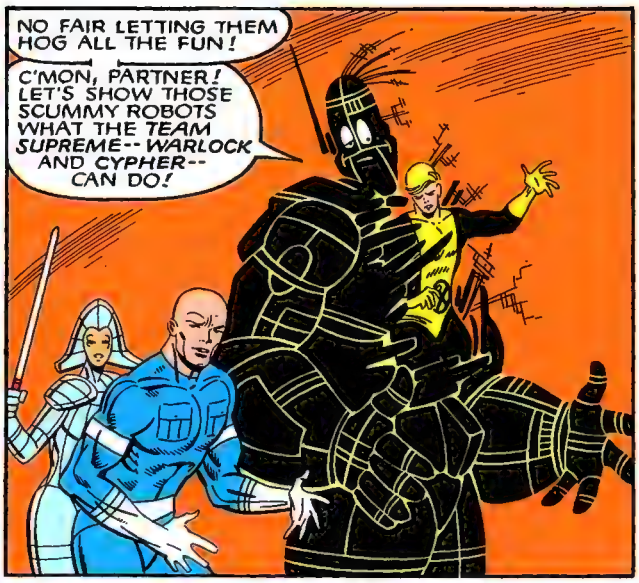
RUN WHILE YOU CAN, DEMON--
--BUT WHEREVER YOU HIDE, I'LL FIND YOU--
--AND THEN, WE'LL SEE WHO LAUGHS LAST!
THIS REALM IS MINE!
AND MINE IT WILL FOREVER REMAIN!
CHARLES, IS SHE GOING TO ABANDON US?!
I DO NOT KNOW, LILANDRA.
I CAN NO LONGER READ HER MIND.
IF I DON'T GO AFTER S'YM, I'M LOST.
IF I DO...
...MY TEAM-MATES ARE--
--PROFESSOR, WHICH SHOULD I CHOOSE?! WHICH IS THE RIGHT DECISION?!!
I'M SORRY, CHILD--THAT IS FOR YOU ALONE TO SAY.
WE'LL FIND THE MUTANTS FIRST, THEN.
AFTER-WARDS, WHEN THEY'RE SAFE--
--IT'LL BE S'YM'S TURN.

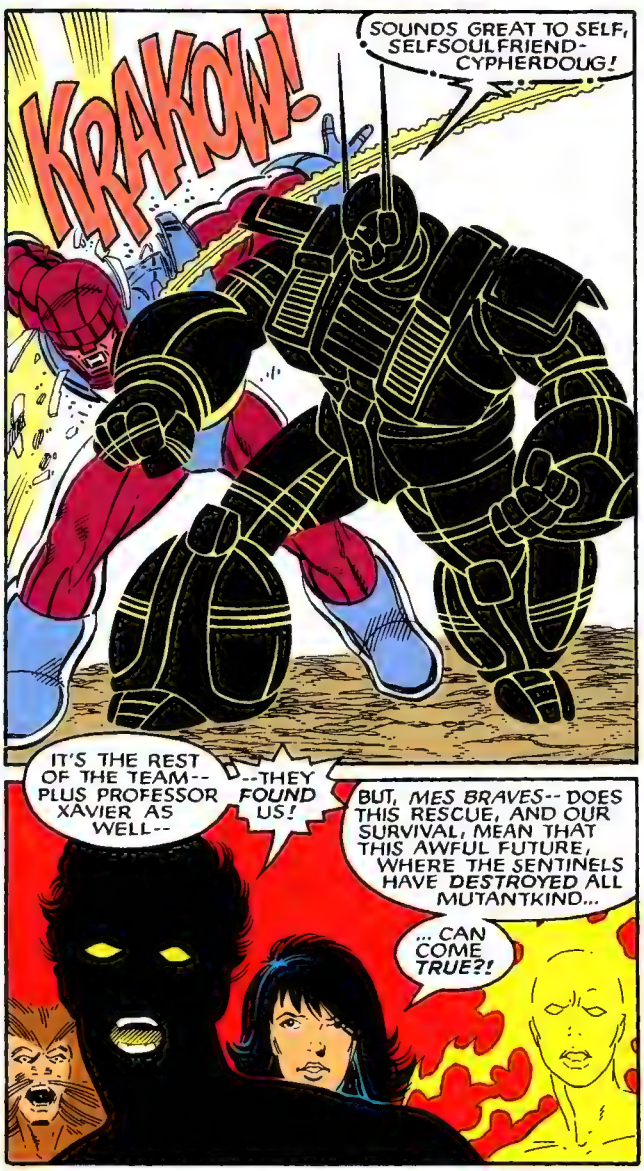
A FUTURE--
--THE WORLD AS IT MIGHT BECOME.
THIS IS UPTOWN--HOME TO THE NEWEST RULERS OF THE EARTH, WHO USED TO BE THAT OUTCAST SUB-SPECIES OF HUMANITY KNOWN AS "MUTANTS."
NOW, THEY'RE THE HUMAN BEINGS.
DOWNTOWN--THE RUINS OF WHAT WAS ONCE MANHATTAN, ALMOST INVISIBLE BELOW THE CLOUDS--IS WHERE THE REMNANTS OF THE OLD RACE LIVE. THEY HAVE NO SPECIAL POWERS.
TO THE RESIDENTS OF UPTOWN, THEY ARE SUB-HUMAN--SUBS FOR SHORT--AND WHERE THEY ARE IS WHERE THEY BELONG, A LOT MORE THAN THEY DESERVE.
SUNRISE.
THEY'LL BE COMIN' FOR US SOON.
I SHOULD CARE! I SHOULD BE ANGRY!!
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY.
SOME SORT OF HYPNOTIC FIELD, CHIEF. THE ROOM ITSELF IS SOOTHING US, CALMING US DOWN, PUTTING US IN THE MOOD TO ACCEPT OUR FATE.
DEAR FRIENDS, IT ISN'T AS THOUGH YOU'RE TO BE EXECUTED...
NO, AMARA--BRAINWASHED! BY TWO PEOPLE WHO USED TO BE OUR TEAMMATES!
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, DANIELLE.
THAT'S WHAT THE GOVERNMENT TOLD MY CHEYENNE ANCESTORS, BOBBY--WHEN THEY PROMISED THAT THE TREATIES WOULD LAST FOR AS LONG AS THE GRASS GREW AND THE FISH SWAM.
I FIGURE YOU'RE JUST ABOUT AS TRUSTWORTHY.
AND YOU, CHILD, ARE A THREAT TO ALL WE'VE BUILT.

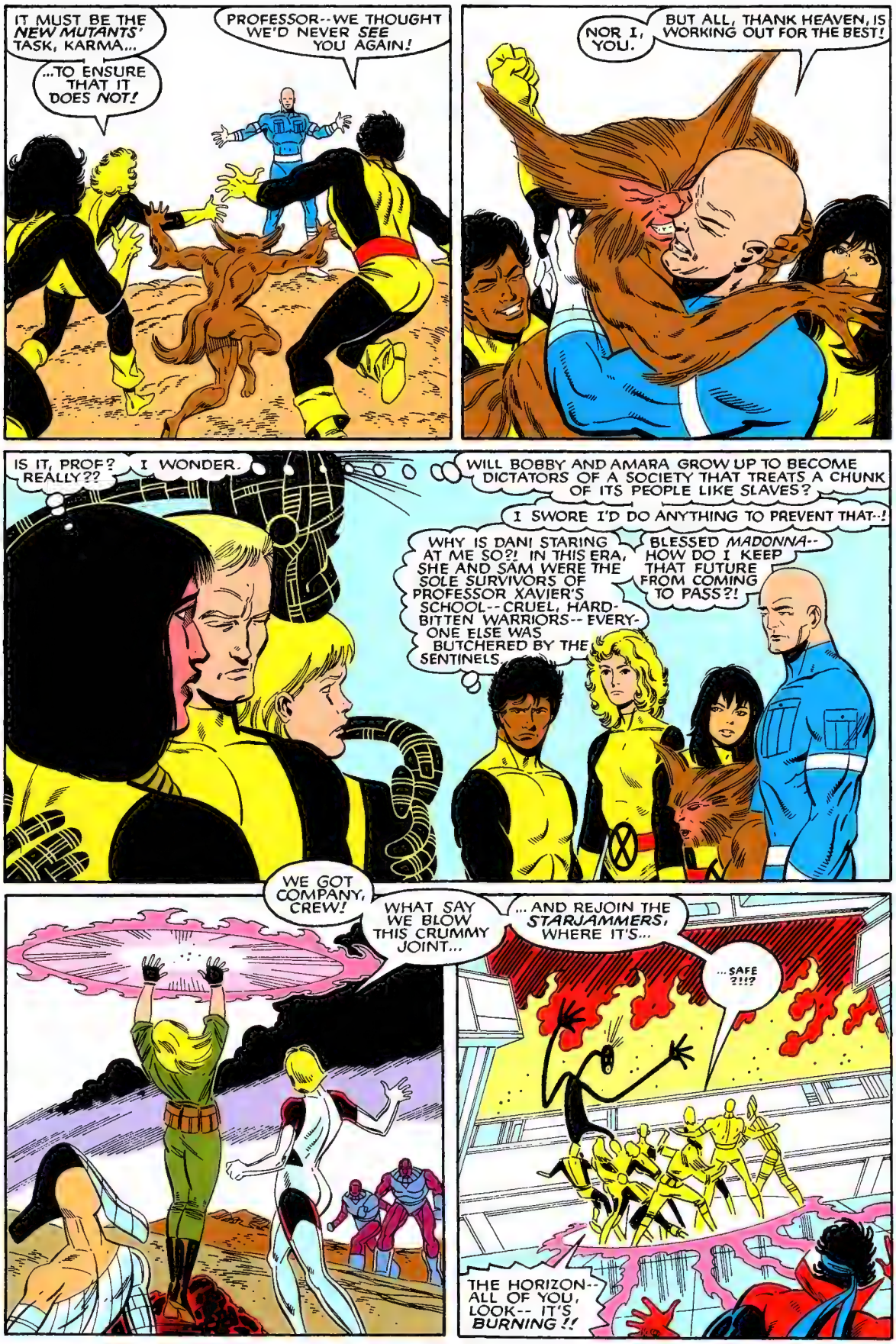

A SOCIETY BUILT ON PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION AIN'T MUCH TO BE PROUD OF, PAL.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE, SAM--ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'VE NO IDEA OF WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU'VE SEEN ONLY TINY--OUT OF CONTEXT--BITS AND PIECES OF OUR CITY.
THIS RE-EDUCATION PROCESS WILL SHOW YOU THE WHOLE PICTURE, TEACH YOU WHAT EVERY CHILD HERE LEARNS FROM BIRTH--SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT US FOR WHAT WE ARE.
YOU'LL FIT IN, YOU'LL BE HAPPY.
WHY NOT LET US MAKE THAT DECISION FOR OURSELVES?!
BECAUSE, CYPHER, THE CHOICE IS NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT--
--ONLY YOUR CONVERSION.
AS SO OFTEN, SO SADLY HAPPENS, THE BEST AND MOST NOBLE OF REASONS...
...INSPIRE THE MOST HEINOUS OF ATROCITIES.
BY ALL THE LIVING GODS--?!!
PROFESSOR XAVIER!?!
BY YOUR LIGHTS, ROBERTO, THIS MAY BE A NECESSARY ACT. BUT ALL YOUR ELOQUENT RATIONALIZATIONS WILL NOT MAKE IT RIGHT.
I THOUGHT I TAUGHT YOU BETTER.
YOU WERE KILLED, PROFESSOR. MUTANT-KIND WAS NEARLY EXTERMINATED! IT'S HARD TO HOLD ONTO A DREAM WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL.
THAT IS WHEN YOU MUST DO SO HARDEST OF ALL.
I THINK WE'VE DONE PRETTY WELL.
I KNOW.
AN HONEST BELIEF, THAT IS CLEAR IN YOUR THOUGHTS.
THEREIN LIES THE TRAGEDY--OF YOUR LIFE...
...AND THIS FUTURE.
FAREWELL.
FTASSSSP

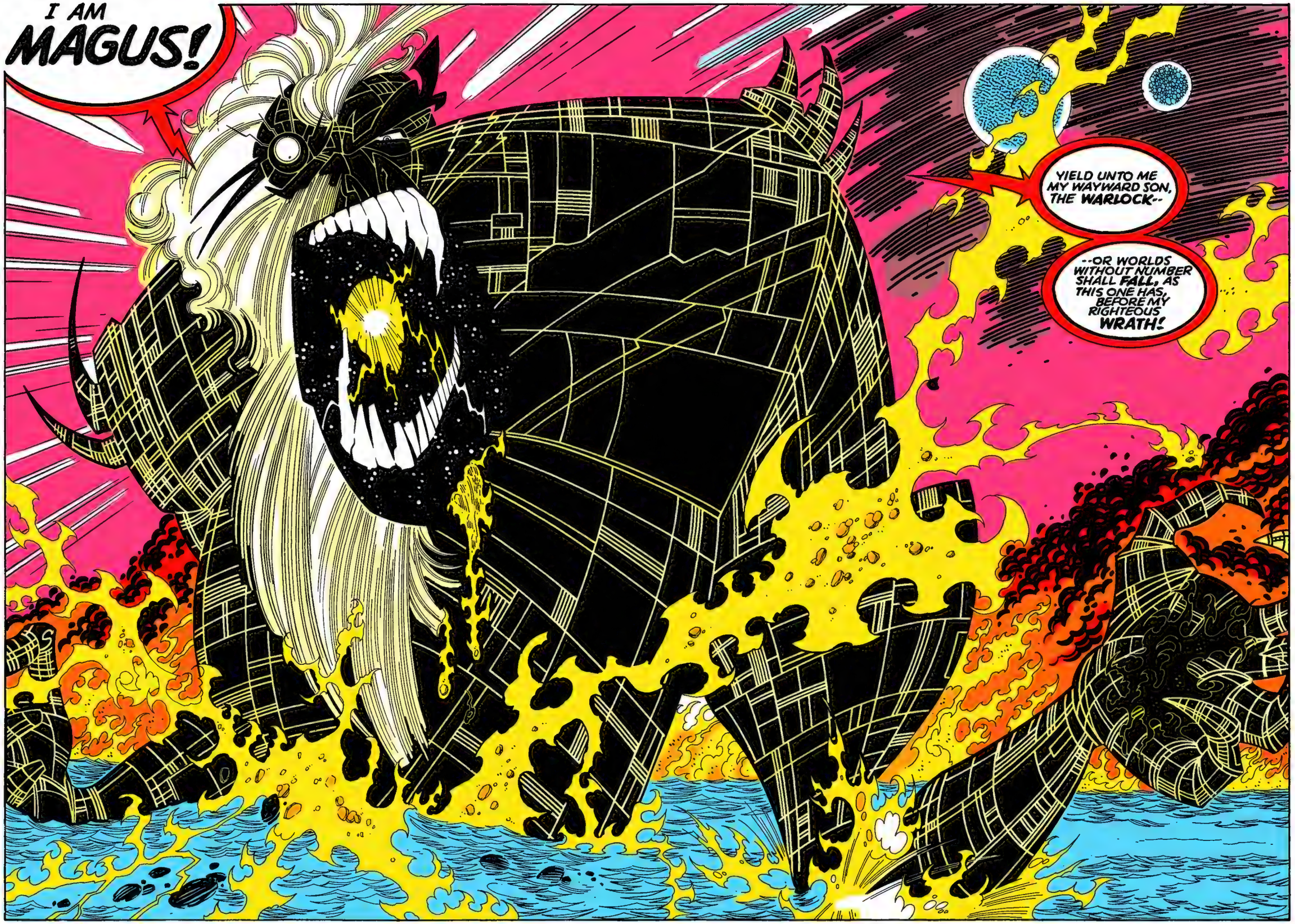

THE SAME PLACE, MANHATTAN...
... BUT A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FUTURE...
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED HERE?!!
SELFSENSORS DETECT PRESENCE OF SELFRIENDS NEW MUTANTS IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY.
ANALYSIS OF DATA INDICATES CONSIDERABLE HOSTILE ACTIVITY.
"SELFRIENDS ARE IN DANGER!"
HERE COME THE SENTINELS!
WE'RE SURROUNDED-- WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT-- ARE YOU READY, AMARA?!
"OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN..."
MY FIRES BLAZE AS HOT AS THE WORLD'S HEART, ROBERTO.
THIS MAY BE OUR LAST STAND, HONORED COMRADES...
... BUT, BY MARS, IT SHALL BE A GLORIOUS ONE!
BRAVE TALK. I BET MAGMA'S AS SCARED AS I AM.
I WONDER, THOUGH-- IF WE DIE HERE IN THE FUTURE, AS TEENAGERS...
... WHEN THE HISTORY OF THIS ERA SAID WE REACHED ADULTHOOD...
... WHAT THEN HAPPENS TO THE TIME-STREAM?!
NOT TO WORRY, SUNSPOT.
IF I HAVE ANY-THING TO SAY IN THE MATTER...
...YOU'LL ALL LIVE TO A RIPE-- AND HAPPY-- OLD AGE!
AND, WHILE THE FOUR YOUNG MUTANTS STARE IN DISBELIEF AT CHARLES XAVIER'S TELEPATHICALLY PROJECTED ASTRAL FORM...
ZA-KOW!
... BINARY TAKES HER TOLL OF THE OPPOSITION--

-- AIDED, SPECTACULARLY, BY CANNONBALL!
BL
AM!

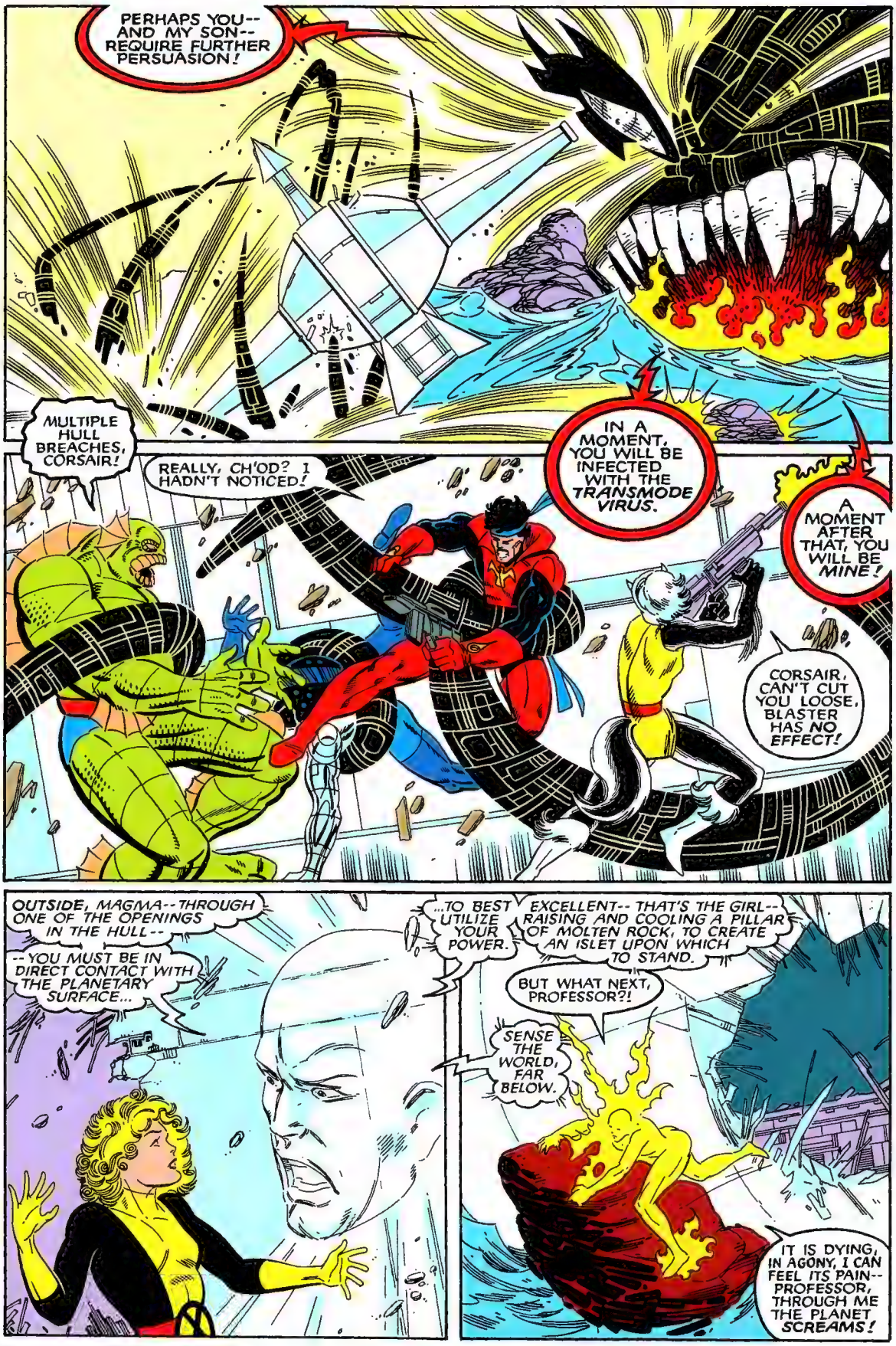

NO FAIR LETTING THEM HOG ALL THE FUN!
C'MON, PARTNER! LET'S SHOW THOSE SCUMMY ROBOTS WHAT THE TEAM SUPREME-- WARLOCK AND CYPHER-- CAN DO!

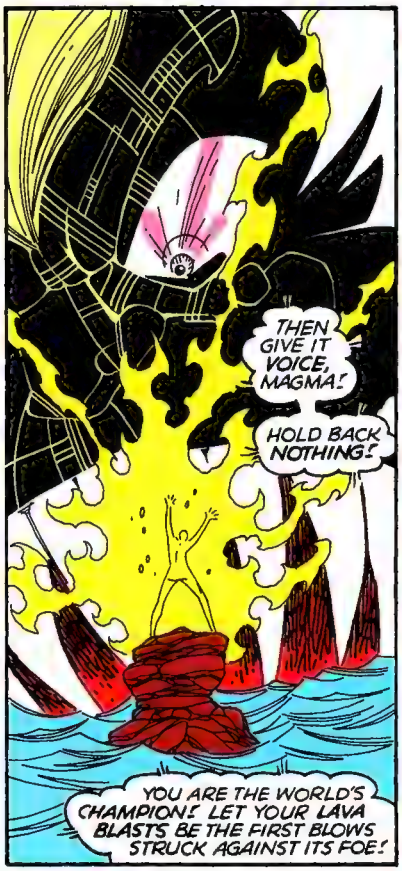

KRAKOW!
SOUNDS GREAT TO SELF, SELFSOULFRIEND-CYPHERDOUG!
IT'S THE REST OF THE TEAM-- PLUS PROFESSOR XAVIER AS WELL--
--THEY FOUND US!
BUT, MES BRAVES-- DOES THIS RESCUE, AND OUR SURVIVAL, MEAN THAT THIS AWFUL FUTURE, WHERE THE SENTINELS HAVE DESTROYED ALL MUTANTKIND...
... CAN COME TRUE?!

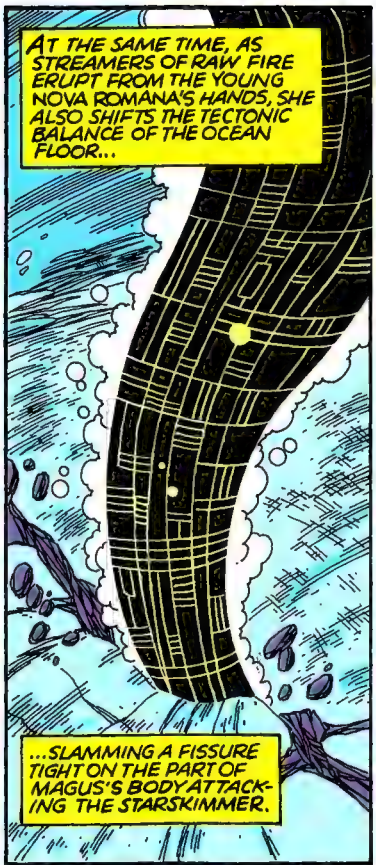

IT MUST BE THE NEW MUTANTS' TASK, KARMA...
...TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT!
PROFESSOR--WE THOUGHT WE'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
NOR I, YOU.
BUT ALL, THANK HEAVEN, IS WORKING OUT FOR THE BEST!
IS IT, PROF? REALLY??
I WONDER.
WILL BOBBY AND AMARA GROW UP TO BECOME DICTATORS OF A SOCIETY THAT TREATS A CHUNK OF ITS PEOPLE LIKE SLAVES?
I SWORE I'D DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT THAT--!
WHY IS DANI STARING AT ME SO?! IN THIS ERA, SHE AND SAM WERE THE SOLE SURVIVORS OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL--CRUEL, HARD-BITTEN WARRIORS-- EVERY-ONE ELSE WAS BUTCHERED BY THE SENTINELS.
BLESSED MADONNA-- HOW DO I KEEP THAT FUTURE FROM COMING TO PASS?!
WE GOT COMPANY, CREW!
WHAT SAY WE BLOW THIS CRUMMY JOINT...
...AND REJOIN THE STARJAMMERS, WHERE IT'S...
...SAFE ?!!?
THE HORIZON-- ALL OF YOU, LOOK-- IT'S BURNING!!


I AM MAGUS!
YIELD UNTO ME MY WAYWARD SON, THE WARLOCK--
--OR WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER SHALL FALL, AS THIS ONE HAS, BEFORE MY RIGHTEOUS WRATH!

THE RACE IS RUN, WARLOCK, OUR MAGUSWAR IS ENDED. NONE ARE LEFT TO SAVE YOU.
STAND FORTH-- TO MEET YOUR FATE.
PLANET'S COMING APART AT THE SEAMS, OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO BOIL AWAY.
THAT FELLA'S POWER LEVELS ARE OFF OUR SCALES, WAY BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF OUR DEFENSIVE SCREENS.
SELF WAS A FOOL TO BELIEVE SELF COULD ESCAPE. AND AS A CONSEQUENCE...
...SELF HAS ENDANGERED SELF'S FRIENDS.
AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE TERMINATION OF THIS ORB AND ITS INHABITANTS.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE UP?!
IT IS THE LOGICAL RESPONSE.
LIKE HECK! YOU THINK MAGUS'LL QUIT SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS?! WARLOCK, WE HELPED YOU-- WE DEFIED HIM --HE WON'T LET US GET AWAY WITH THAT.
WE EITHER BEAT HIM, OR WE'RE DEAD ALONG WITH YOU!
TEACHER -- WHAT SHOULD SELF DO?!
THE MAGUSWAR IS WHAT IS EVIL HERE, WARLOCK. IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PLANET'S DESTRUCTION, IT IS WHAT MUST BE CHANGED.
BUT THAT, I FEAR, IS SOMETHING...
...ONLY YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH.
I GROW WEARY OF WAITING, BIOFORMS!


PERHAPS YOU-- AND MY SON-- REQUIRE FURTHER PERSUASION!
MULTIPLE HULL BREACHES, CORSAIR!
REALLY, CH'OD? I HADN'T NOTICED!
IN A MOMENT, YOU WILL BE INFECTED WITH THE TRANSMODE VIRUS.
A MOMENT AFTER THAT, YOU WILL BE MINE!
CORSAIR, CAN'T CUT YOU LOOSE, BLASTER HAS NO EFFECT!
OUTSIDE, MAGMA--THROUGH ONE OF THE OPENINGS IN THE HULL--
--YOU MUST BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PLANETARY SURFACE...
...TO BEST UTILIZE YOUR POWER.
EXCELLENT-- THAT'S THE GIRL-- RAISING AND COOLING A PILLAR OF MOLTEN ROCK, TO CREATE AN ISLET UPON WHICH TO STAND.
BUT WHAT NEXT, PROFESSOR?!
SENSE THE WORLD, FAR BELOW.
IT IS DYING, IN AGONY, I CAN FEEL ITS PAIN-- PROFESSOR, THROUGH ME THE PLANET SCREAMS!


THEN GIVE IT VOICE, MAGMA!
HOLD BACK NOTHING!
YOU ARE THE WORLD'S CHAMPION! LET YOUR LAVA BLASTS BE THE FIRST BLOWS STRUCK AGAINST ITS FOE!

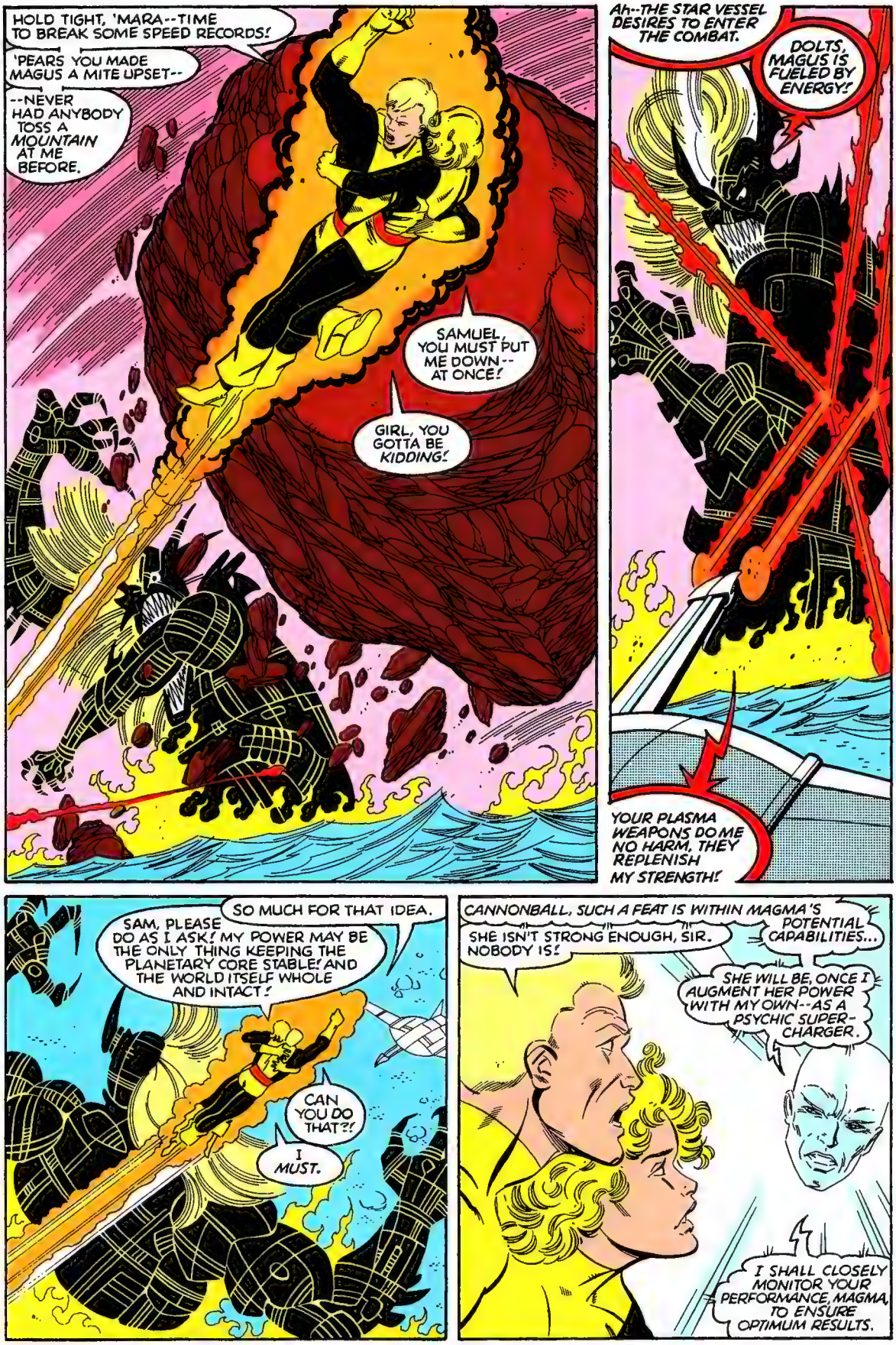

AT THE SAME TIME, AS STREAMERS OF RAW FIRE ERUPT FROM THE YOUNG NOVA ROMANA'S HANDS, SHE ALSO SHIFTS THE TECTONIC BALANCE OF THE OCEAN FLOOR...
...SLAMMING A FISSURE TIGHT ON THE PART OF MAGUS'S BODY ATTACKING THE STARSKIMMER.

HE BELLOWS--MORE IN SURPRISE THAN ACTUAL PAIN--SHE GRINS IN FIERCE EXULTATION.
NOW, MAGIK--YOUR TURN!
TELEPORT TO THE SEA BOTTOM!
MY PLEASURE, PROF!

PRESSURE'S MURDEROUS--BUT I'LL ONLY BE HERE A SECOND--
--JUST LONG ENOUGH TO JAUNT A SECTION OF TENTACLE AWAY!
SURE HOPE THE BIG GUY DOESN'T MIND.

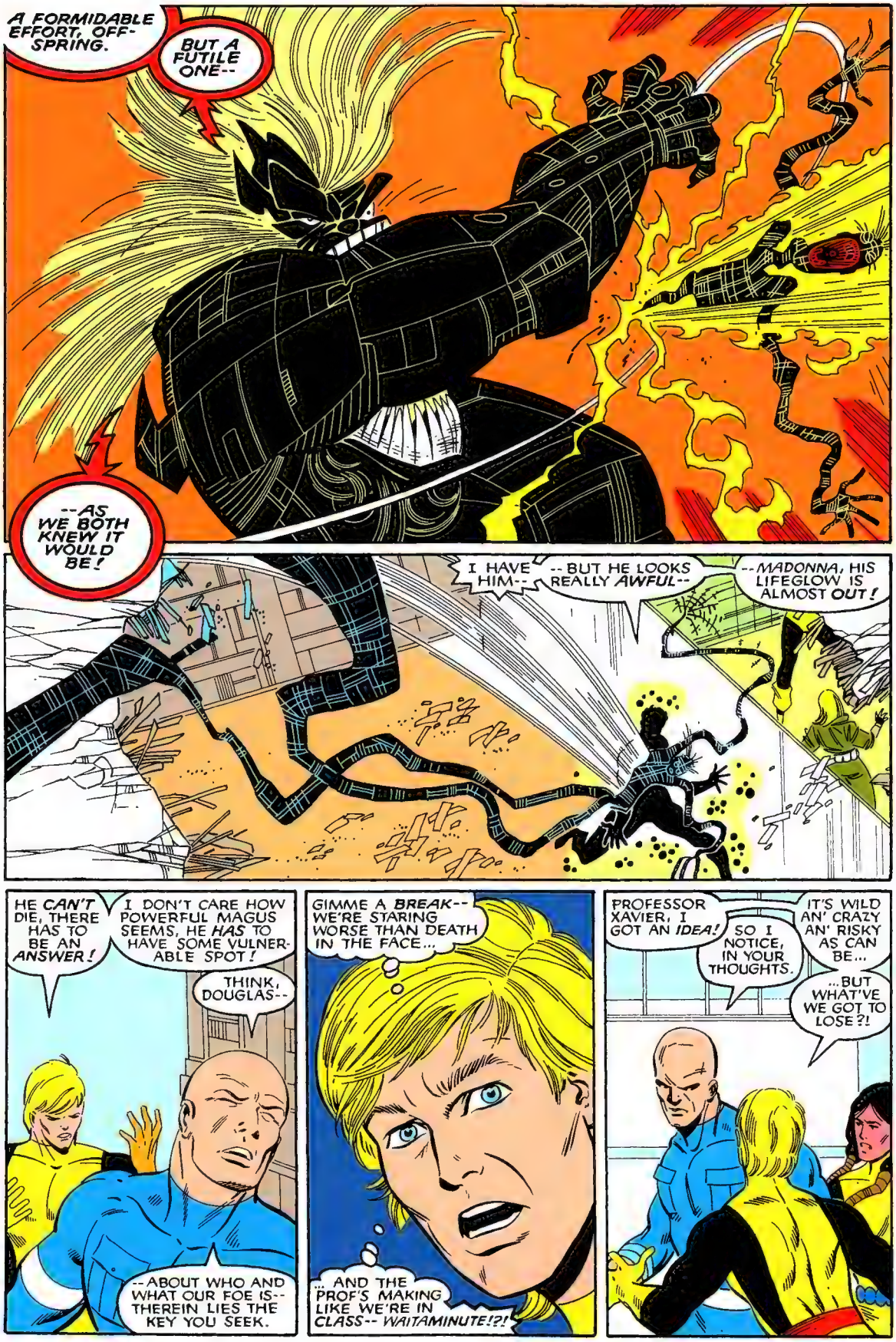
ARRRGH!

THE TENTACLES--DISSOLVING!
THE SHIP'S CLEAR!
WHY, I DO BELIEVE WE'RE SAVED.
AYE, THOU GREAT LUMMOX--BUT FOR HOW LONG?!

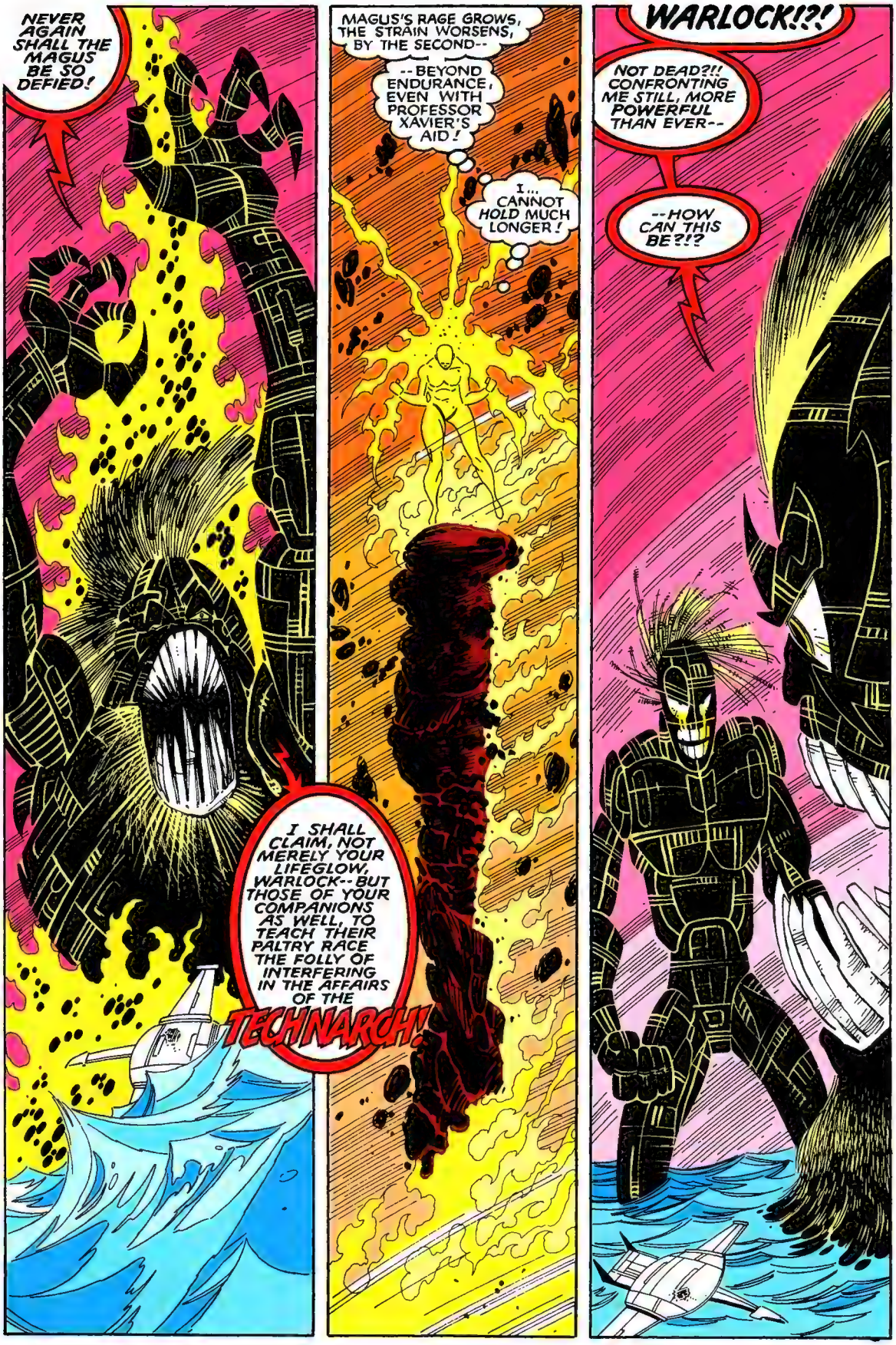

HOLD TIGHT, 'MARA--TIME TO BREAK SOME SPEED RECORDS!
'PEARS YOU MADE MAGUS A MITE UPSET--
--NEVER HAD ANYBODY TOSS A MOUNTAIN AT ME BEFORE.
SAMUEL, YOU MUST PUT ME DOWN--AT ONCE!
GIRL, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
Ah--THE STAR VESSEL DESIRES TO ENTER THE COMBAT.
DOLTS, MAGUS IS FUELED BY ENERGY!
YOUR PLASMA WEAPONS DO ME NO HARM, THEY REPLENISH MY STRENGTH!
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.
SAM, PLEASE DO AS I ASK! MY POWER MAY BE THE ONLY THING KEEPING THE PLANETARY CORE STABLE! AND THE WORLD ITSELF WHOLE AND INTACT!
CAN YOU DO THAT?!
I MUST.
CANNONBALL, SUCH A FEAT IS WITHIN MAGMA'S POTENTIAL CAPABILITIES...
SHE ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH, SIR. NOBODY IS!
SHE WILL BE, ONCE I AUGMENT HER POWER WITH MY OWN--AS A PSYCHIC SUPER-CHARGER.
I SHALL CLOSELY MONITOR YOUR PERFORMANCE, MAGMA, TO ENSURE OPTIMUM RESULTS.

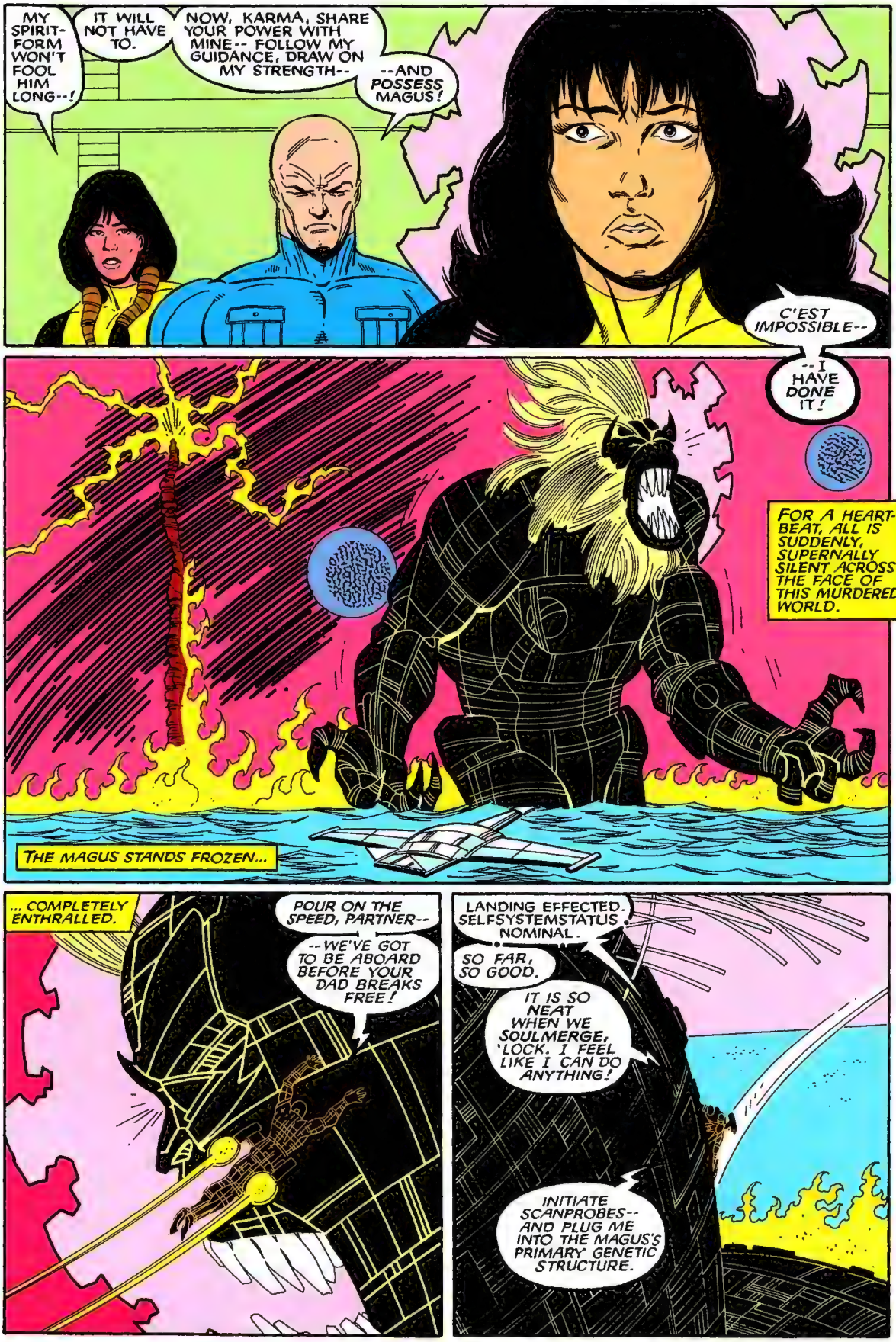
AH DON'T LIKE IT.
HE IS OUR REVERED TEACHER, SAMUEL.
COULD I BE IN BETTER HANDS?
HAVE YOU A BETTER PLAN?!
AH DON'T WANT YOU HURT, IS ALL, OR DEAD.
TO LIVE IS TO RISK BEING HURT, SWEET FRIEND.
AND ALL THINGS DIE.
WHY NOT AT A MOMENT OF ONE'S OWN CHOOSING, FIGHTING FOR A NOBLE CAUSE?
NO ONE WILL PERISH HERE, MAGMA...
... IF I CAN BUT FIND THE WAY-- ?!
SUNSPOT, WHAT'S WRONG?!
I FEEL SO USELESS, PROFESSOR-- SO HELPLESS!
WHAT GOOD IS THE STRENGTH TO KNOCK DOWN WALLS AGAINST A FOE WHO CAN TEAR APART PLANETS?!
NOT EVERYONE IN A TEAM IS ESSENTIAL TO THE RESOLUTION OF EVERY CONFLICT, LAD.
YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART IN THE PAST AND NO DOUBT WILL AGAIN. FOR THE PRESENT, ROBERTO, PRACTICE PATIENCE. HARD THOUGH THAT MAY BE.
I... SHALL TRY, SIR.
YOU SPEAK AS A FATHER SHOULD. AS MY REAL FATHER ALMOST NEVER DOES-- THOUGH I WOULD GIVE MY SOUL TO HAVE HIM DO SO!
WARLOCK-- COME BACK!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
SELF WILL NO LONGER ALLOW SELFRIENDS...
...TO FIGHT SELF'S BATTLE FOR SELF!
AT LAST... THE MOMENT OF TRUTH...
... WHEREIN SELF MUST PROVE AND EARN SELF'S RIGHT TO LIFE...

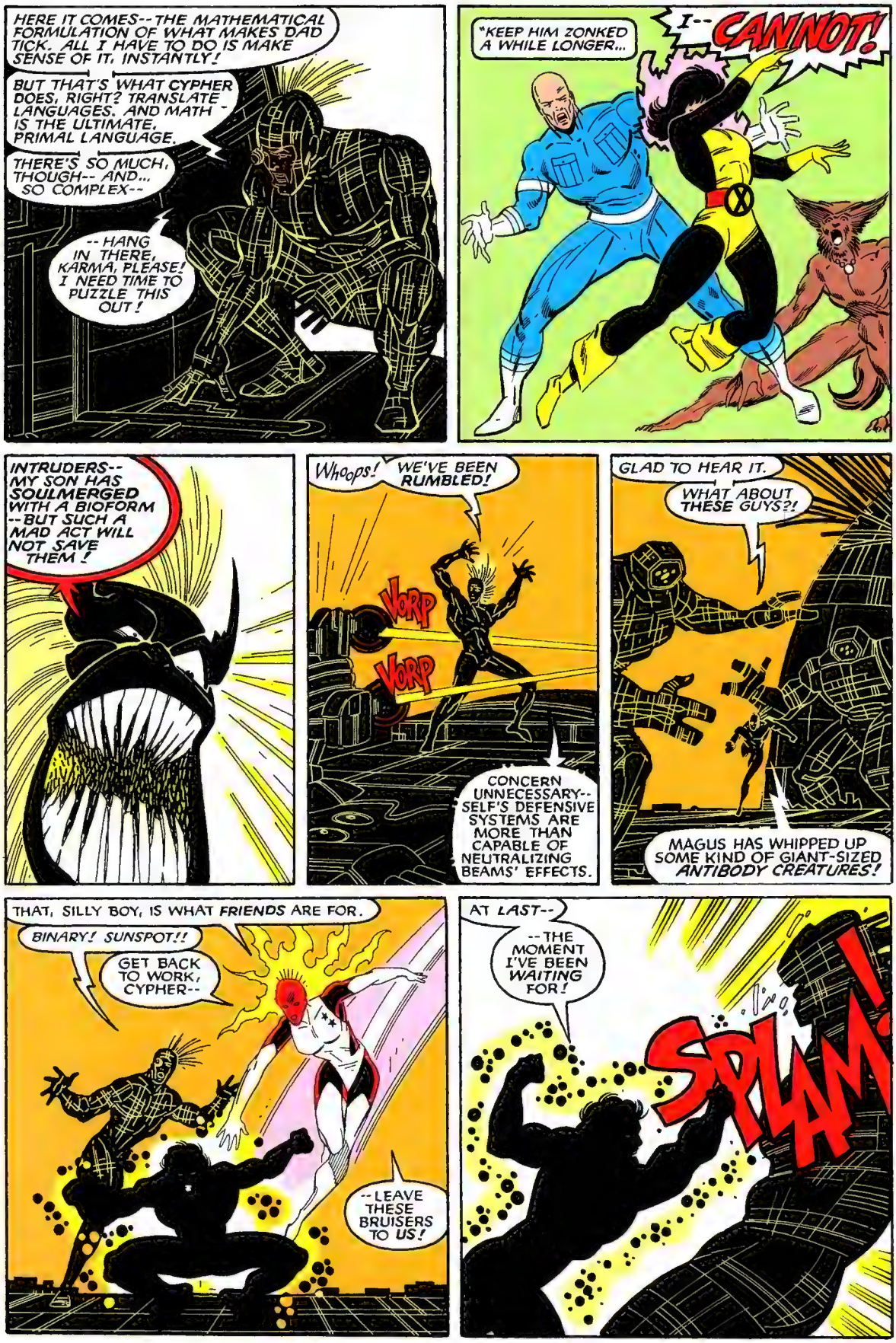
...BY SLAYING SELF'S SIRE!

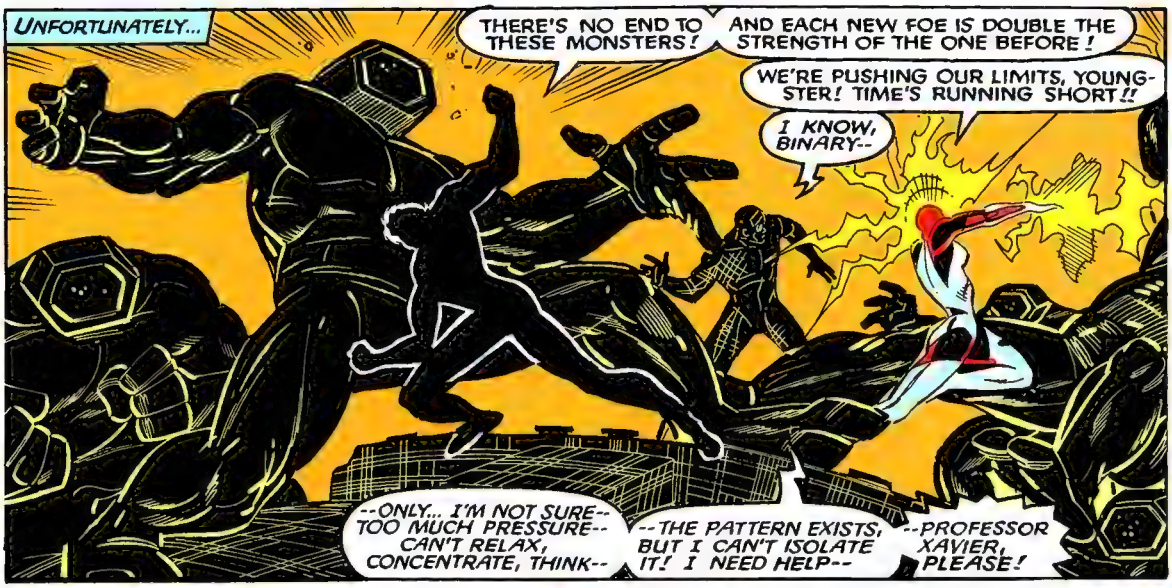

A FORMIDABLE EFFORT, OFF-SPRING.
BUT A FUTILE ONE--
--AS WE BOTH KNEW IT WOULD BE!
I HAVE HIM--
-- BUT HE LOOKS REALLY AWFUL--
--MADONNA, HIS LIFEGLOW IS ALMOST OUT!
HE CAN'T DIE, THERE HAS TO BE AN ANSWER!
I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL MAGUS SEEMS, HE HAS TO HAVE SOME VULNERABLE SPOT!
THINK, DOUGLAS--
--ABOUT WHO AND WHAT OUR FOE IS-- THEREIN LIES THE KEY YOU SEEK.
GIMME A BREAK-- WE'RE STARING WORSE THAN DEATH IN THE FACE...
... AND THE PROF'S MAKING LIKE WE'RE IN CLASS-- WAITAMINUTE!?!
PROFESSOR XAVIER, I GOT AN IDEA!
SO I NOTICE, IN YOUR THOUGHTS.
IT'S WILD AN' CRAZY AN' RISKY AS CAN BE...
...BUT WHAT'VE WE GOT TO LOSE?!

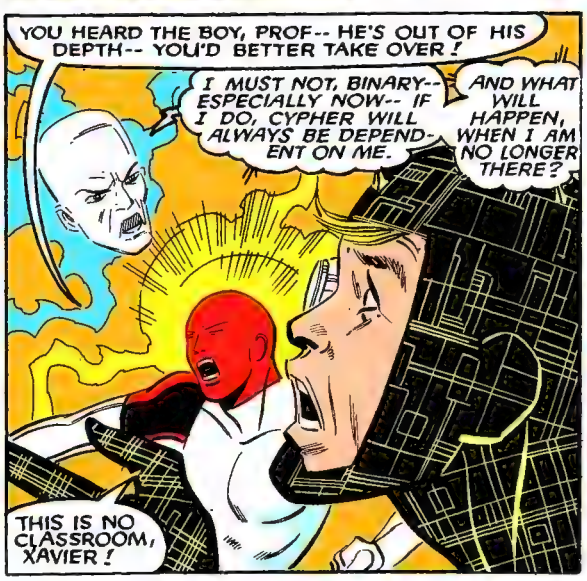
MORE THAN YOU SUSPECT...
...BUT I CAN SEE NO BETTER HOPE.
GOOD LUCK, CYPHER.
MIRAGE, YOUR POWER WILL STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW--ON MY SIGNAL--BY CONFRONTING MAGUS WITH HIS GREATEST TERROR.
WE TRIED THAT STUNT BEFORE, SIR.
BUT HIS STRENGTH'S WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE. HE BUSTED THE ILLUSION INSTANTLY.
TRUST ME, CHILD. I SHALL BE STANDING WITH YOU, AUGMENTING YOUR POWERS AS I DID MAGMA'S.
UP-'N'-AT-'EM, BUDDY-BOY! RISE-'N'-SHINE--
--LIKE THE SUPERSTAR YOU ARE!
NO RESPONSE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO FAR GONE.
MY BRILLIANT PLAN'S A WASHOUT WITHOUT HIM--
--SO I GUESS IT'S TIME AGAIN TO USE MY OWN LIFE ENERGY...
...TO JUMPSTART HIM!
HERE WE GO!
DENIAL... RESISTANCE... OBJECTION-- DANGER, SELFSOULFRIENDOUG-- SELFSTATUS TOO EXTREME... NEGATIVE-- LIFE-END!
NO NEED TO KILL YOURSELF CHARGING THE YOUNGSTER, YOUNGSTER...
...WHEN MY STARBOLTS CAN DO IT BETTER AND MORE EASILY.
BINARY!
I'M A DUNCE! I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF YOU RIGHT OFF--!
LIVE AND LEARN, HOTHEAD.
THAT SEEMS TO HAVE DONE THE TRICK.
SELFSYSTEMS ON-LINE, RESTORED TO FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY!


NEVER AGAIN SHALL THE MAGUS BE SO DEFIED!
I SHALL CLAIM, NOT MERELY YOUR LIFEGLOW, WARLOCK--BUT THOSE OF YOUR COMPANIONS AS WELL, TO TEACH THEIR PALTRY RACE THE FOLLY OF INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE TECHNARCH!
MAGUS'S RAGE GROWS, THE STRAIN WORSENS, BY THE SECOND--
--BEYOND ENDURANCE, EVEN WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER'S AID!
I... CANNOT HOLD MUCH LONGER!
WARLOCK!?!
NOT DEAD?!! CONFRONTING ME STILL, MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER--
--HOW CAN THIS BE?!?

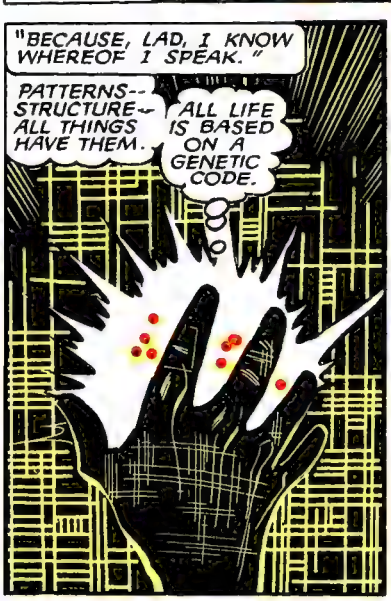

MY SPIRIT-FORM WON'T FOOL HIM LONG--!
IT WILL NOT HAVE TO.
NOW, KARMA, SHARE YOUR POWER WITH MINE-- FOLLOW MY GUIDANCE, DRAW ON MY STRENGTH--
--AND POSSESS MAGUS!
C'EST IMPOSSIBLE--
--I HAVE DONE IT!
FOR A HEART-BEAT, ALL IS SUDDENLY, SUPERNALLY SILENT ACROSS THE FACE OF THIS MURDERED WORLD.
THE MAGUS STANDS FROZEN...
... COMPLETELY ENTHRALLED.
POUR ON THE SPEED, PARTNER--
--WE'VE GOT TO BE ABOARD BEFORE YOUR DAD BREAKS FREE!
LANDING EFFECTED. SELFSYSTEMSTATUS NOMINAL.
SO FAR, SO GOOD.
IT IS SO NEAT WHEN WE SOULMERGE, 'LOCK. I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING!
INITIATE SCANPROBES-- AND PLUG ME INTO THE MAGUS'S PRIMARY GENETIC STRUCTURE.


HERE IT COMES--THE MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION OF WHAT MAKES DAD TICK. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SENSE OF IT, INSTANTLY!
BUT THAT'S WHAT CYPHER DOES, RIGHT? TRANSLATE LANGUAGES. AND MATH IS THE ULTIMATE, PRIMAL LANGUAGE.
THERE'S SO MUCH, THOUGH-- AND... SO COMPLEX--
-- HANG IN THERE, KARMA, PLEASE! I NEED TIME TO PUZZLE THIS OUT!
*KEEP HIM ZONKED A WHILE LONGER...
I-- CANNOT!
INTRUDERS-- MY SON HAS SOULMERGED WITH A BIOFORM --BUT SUCH A MAD ACT WILL NOT SAVE THEM!
Whoops! WE'VE BEEN RUMBLED!
VORP
VORP
CONCERN UNNECESSARY-- SELF'S DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF NEUTRALIZING BEAMS' EFFECTS.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.
WHAT ABOUT THESE GUYS?!
MAGUS HAS WHIPPED UP SOME KIND OF GIANT-SIZED ANTIBODY CREATURES!
THAT, SILLY BOY, IS WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR.
BINARY! SUNSPOT!!
GET BACK TO WORK, CYPHER--
--LEAVE THESE BRUISERS TO US!
AT LAST--
--THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
SPLAM!


UNFORTUNATELY...
THERE'S NO END TO THESE MONSTERS!
AND EACH NEW FOE IS DOUBLE THE STRENGTH OF THE ONE BEFORE!
WE'RE PUSHING OUR LIMITS, YOUNGSTER! TIME'S RUNNING SHORT!!
I KNOW, BINARY--
--ONLY... I'M NOT SURE-- TOO MUCH PRESSURE-- CAN'T RELAX, CONCENTRATE, THINK--
--THE PATTERN EXISTS, BUT I CAN'T ISOLATE IT! I NEED HELP--
--PROFESSOR XAVIER, PLEASE!

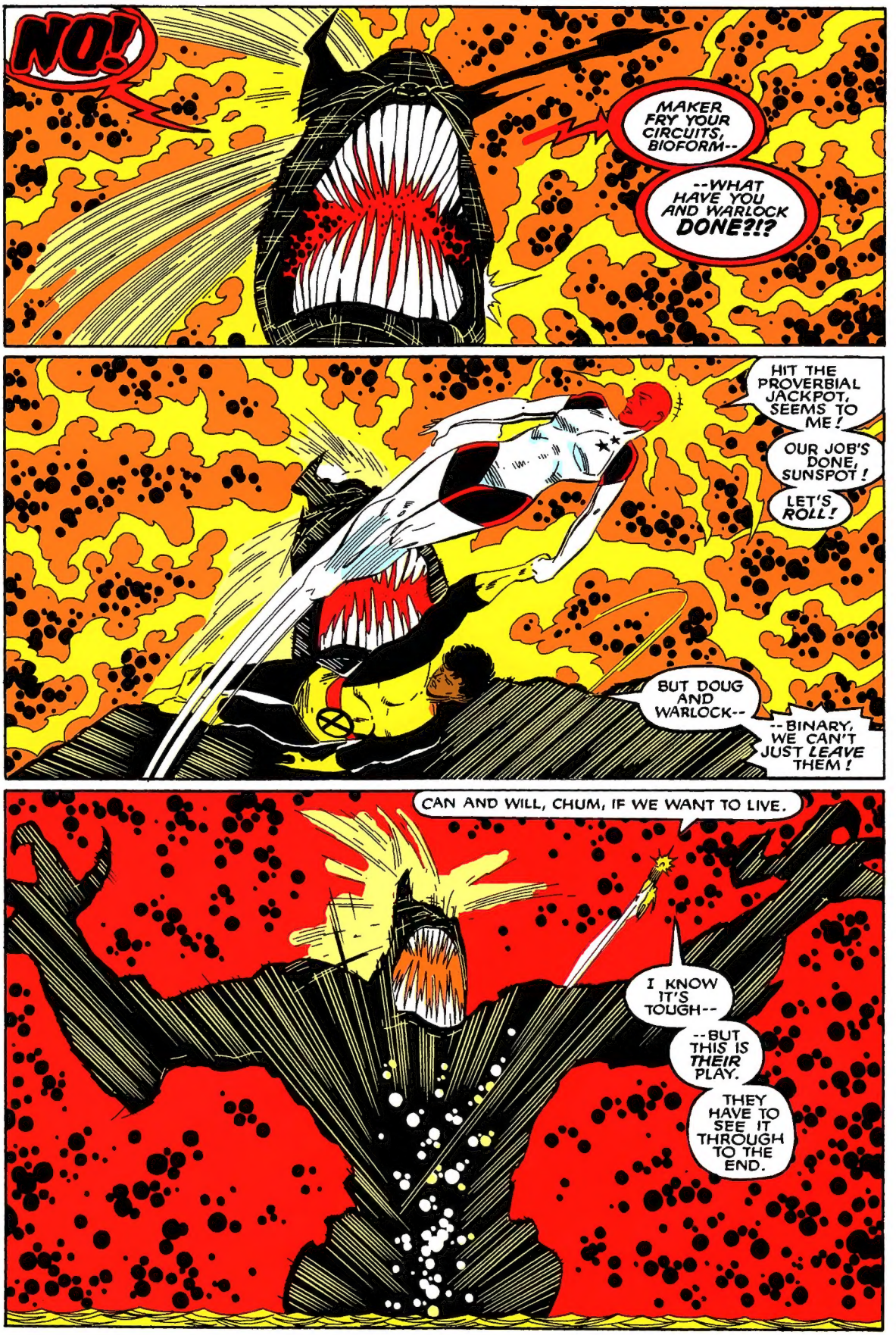

YOU HEARD THE BOY, PROF-- HE'S OUT OF HIS DEPTH-- YOU'D BETTER TAKE OVER!
I MUST NOT, BINARY-- ESPECIALLY NOW-- IF I DO, CYPHER WILL ALWAYS BE DEPENDENT ON ME.
AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN, WHEN I AM NO LONGER THERE?
THIS IS NO CLASSROOM, XAVIER!

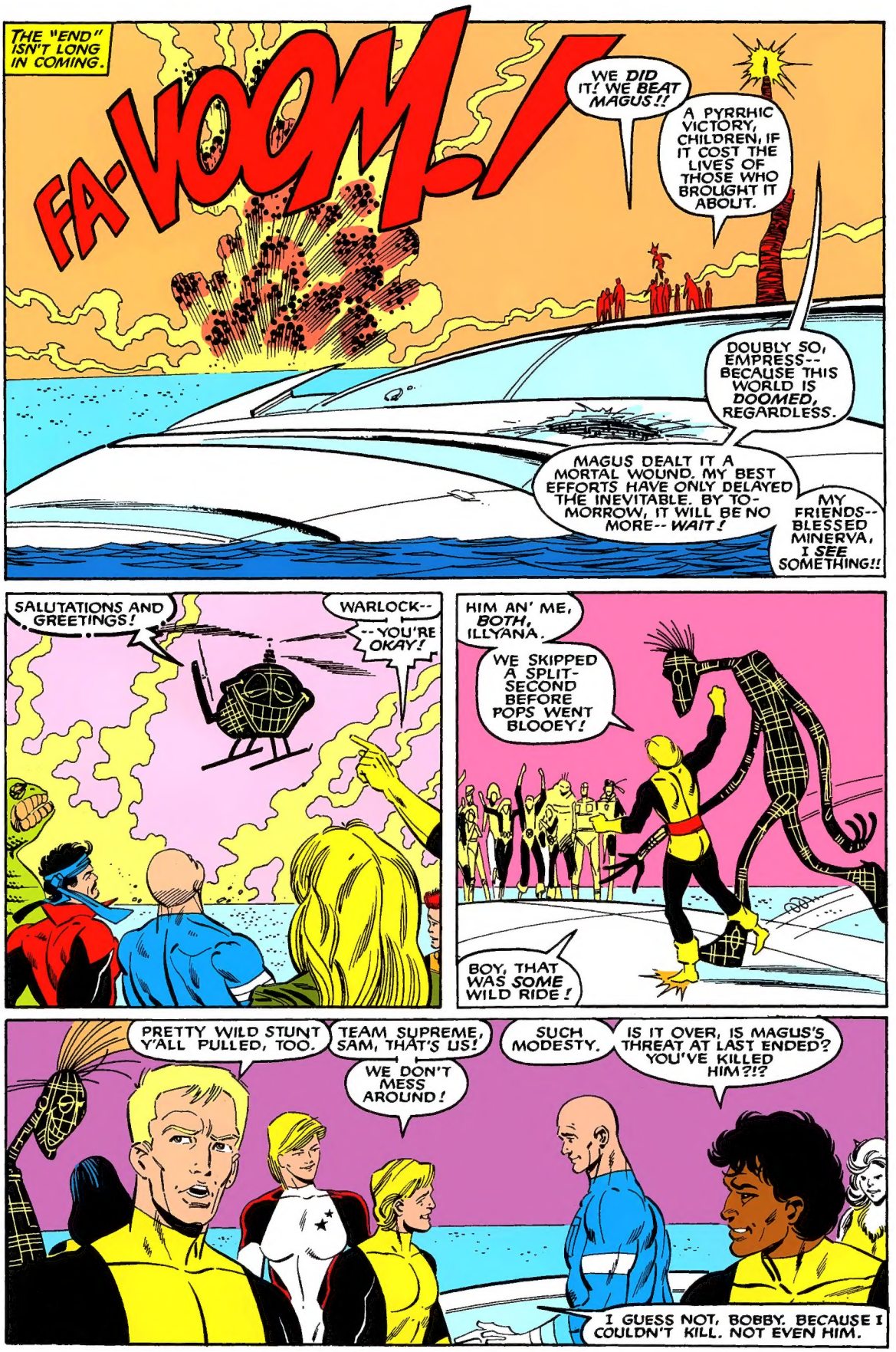
YOU ARE WRONG.
ALL LIFE-- EVERY MOMENT-- IS ONE, FOR THOSE WILLING TO LEARN.
THE KEY IS WITHIN YOUR GRASP, DOUGLAS. BE CALM, AS I TAUGHT YOU-- HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ABILITIES, AND YOUR OWN COURAGE--
--AND YOU WILL FIND IT.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.

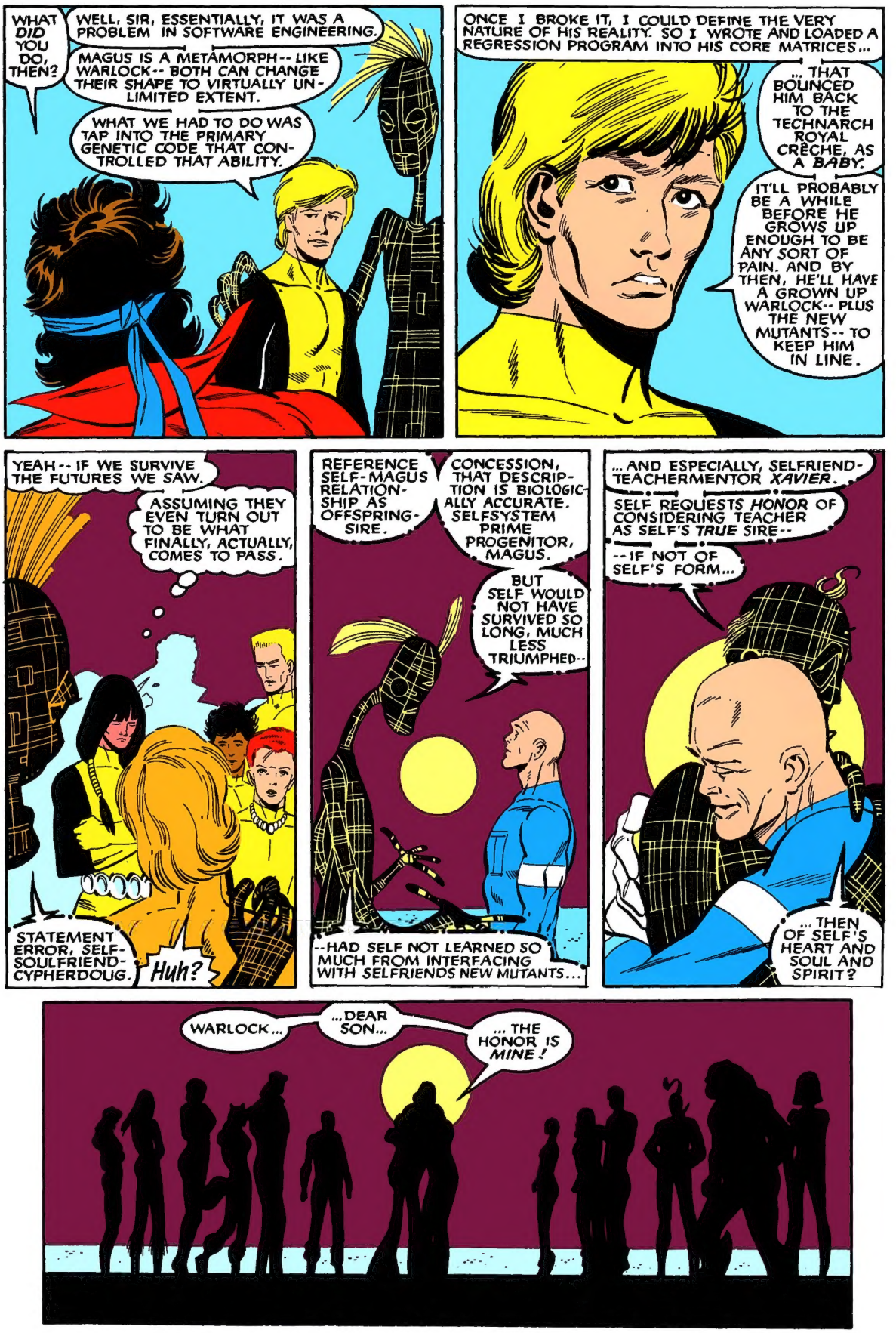

"BECAUSE, LAD, I KNOW WHEREOF I SPEAK."
PATTERNS-- STRUCTURE-- ALL THINGS HAVE THEM.
ALL LIFE IS BASED ON A GENETIC CODE.

MAGUS'S IS LIKE WARLOCK'S-- AND WARLOCK IS A PART OF ME!
THE KEY THE PROFESSOR SPOKE OF IS-- KNOWING MYSELF!
ONLY ONE CHANCE--

--GOTTA HIT HARD, FAST-- PUNCH-SLIP PAST MAGUS'S DEFENSES BEFORE HE REALIZES WHAT I'M UP TO AND SETS UP A COUNTER--
--BINGO!


NO!
MAKER FRY YOUR CIRCUITS, BIOFORM--
--WHAT HAVE YOU AND WARLOCK DONE?!?
HIT THE PROVERBIAL JACKPOT, SEEMS TO ME!
OUR JOB'S DONE, SUNSPOT!
LET'S ROLL!
BUT DOUG AND WARLOCK--
--BINARY, WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM!
CAN AND WILL, CHUM, IF WE WANT TO LIVE.
I KNOW IT'S TOUGH--
--BUT THIS IS THEIR PLAY.
THEY HAVE TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.


THE "END" ISN'T LONG IN COMING.
FA-VOOM-!
WE DID IT! WE BEAT MAGUS!!
A PYRRHIC VICTORY, CHILDREN, IF IT COST THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO BROUGHT IT ABOUT.
DOUBLY SO, EMPRESS-- BECAUSE THIS WORLD IS DOOMED, REGARDLESS.
MAGUS DEALT IT A MORTAL WOUND. MY BEST EFFORTS HAVE ONLY DELAYED THE INEVITABLE. BY TOMORROW, IT WILL BE NO MORE-- WAIT!
MY FRIENDS-- BLESSED MINERVA, I SEE SOMETHING!!
SALUTATIONS AND GREETINGS!
WARLOCK--
--YOU'RE OKAY!
HIM AN' ME, BOTH, ILLYANA.
WE SKIPPED A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE POPS WENT BLOOEY!
BOY, THAT WAS SOME WILD RIDE!
PRETTY WILD STUNT Y'ALL PULLED, TOO.
TEAM SUPREME, SAM, THAT'S US!
WE DON'T MESS AROUND!
SUCH MODESTY.
IS IT OVER, IS MAGUS'S THREAT AT LAST ENDED? YOU'VE KILLED HIM?!?
I GUESS NOT, BOBBY. BECAUSE I COULDN'T KILL. NOT EVEN HIM.


WHAT DID YOU DO, THEN?
WELL, SIR, ESSENTIALLY, IT WAS A PROBLEM IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING.
MAGUS IS A METAMORPH-- LIKE WARLOCK-- BOTH CAN CHANGE THEIR SHAPE TO VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED EXTENT.
WHAT WE HAD TO DO WAS TAP INTO THE PRIMARY GENETIC CODE THAT CONTROLLED THAT ABILITY.
ONCE I BROKE IT, I COULD DEFINE THE VERY NATURE OF HIS REALITY. SO I WROTE AND LOADED A REGRESSION PROGRAM INTO HIS CORE MATRICES...
... THAT BOUNCED HIM BACK TO THE TECHNARCH ROYAL CRÈCHE, AS A BABY.
IT'LL PROBABLY BE A WHILE BEFORE HE GROWS UP ENOUGH TO BE ANY SORT OF PAIN. AND BY THEN, HE'LL HAVE A GROWN UP WARLOCK-- PLUS THE NEW MUTANTS-- TO KEEP HIM IN LINE.
YEAH-- IF WE SURVIVE THE FUTURES WE SAW.
ASSUMING THEY EVEN TURN OUT TO BE WHAT FINALLY, ACTUALLY, COMES TO PASS.
STATEMENT ERROR, SELF-SOULFRIEND-CYPHERDOUG.
Huh?
REFERENCE SELF-MAGUS RELATIONSHIP AS OFFSPRING-SIRE.
CONCESSION, THAT DESCRIPTION IS BIOLOGICALLY ACCURATE. SELFSYSTEM PRIME PROGENITOR, MAGUS.
BUT SELF WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED SO LONG, MUCH LESS TRIUMPHED--
--HAD SELF NOT LEARNED SO MUCH FROM INTERFACING WITH SELFRIENDS NEW MUTANTS...
...AND ESPECIALLY, SELFRIEND-TEACHERMENTOR XAVIER.
SELF REQUESTS HONOR OF CONSIDERING TEACHER AS SELF'S TRUE SIRE--
--IF NOT OF SELF'S FORM...
... THEN OF SELF'S HEART AND SOUL AND SPIRIT?
WARLOCK...
...DEAR SON...
... THE HONOR IS MINE!

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST